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VOL. 8 NO. 12

Shadow[®] COMICS



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THE SHADOW IN Three Curious Clues



MATCH YOUR WITS WITH **THE SHADOW** AS HE CHAIN LIGHTENING'S HIS WAY THROUGH A **SPIDER MAZE** OF TANGLED MOTIVES AND EVIL MACHINATIONS TO THE SOLUTION OF THE **THREE CURIOUS CLUES!** WHAT WAS ALL WRAPPED IN **TAR??** WHERE WAS THE **ANCIENT NEEDLE???** AND...., WHAT WAS BETWEEN THE **PAGES** OF A BOOK **???**

Powell
FEATURES

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OOOH!... DO YOU THINK THEY'RE CALLING US FOR THE "TAKE IT OR TAKE IT" RADIO PROGRAM? THEY'RE GIVING AWAY OODLES OF THINGS!

BRR RIIINGG!!

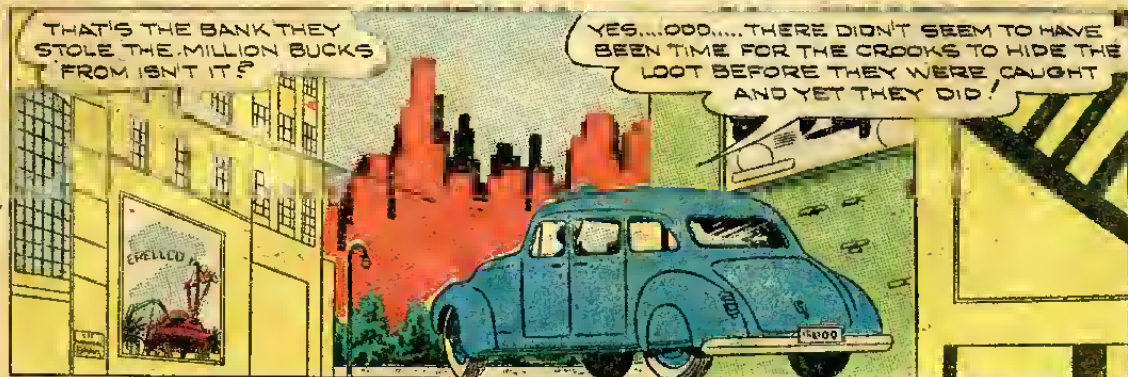


LAMONT CRANSTON SPEAKING! OH, HI, COMMISSIONER WESTON! WHAT?

HMM! CRIME WHEN I WANT TO WIN A TELEVISION SET AND A MILLION ODDS AND ENDS!



IS THIS ABOUT THAT MILLION DOLLAR HOLD UP WHERE THEY CAUGHT THE CROOKS BUT CAN'T FIND THE LOOT? I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT! WESTON SAYS THAT EVERY JAIL BIRD IN TOWN HAS SHOWN UP AT A RADIO QUIZ SHOW!



THAT'S THE BANK THEY STOLE THE MILLION BUCKS FROM ISN'T IT?

YES... OOD... THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE BEEN TIME FOR THE CROOKS TO HIDE THE LOOT BEFORE THEY WERE CAUGHT AND YET THEY DID!



STATION WZZZ.... ON THE AIR....

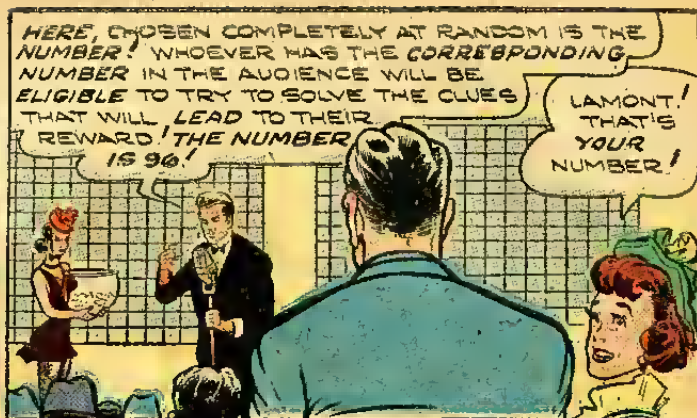
LAMONT, THIS IS THE STATION THAT BROADCASTS. FOLLOW THE RIDDLE!

YES I KNOW! THAT'S THE PROGRAM WE'RE GOING TO.

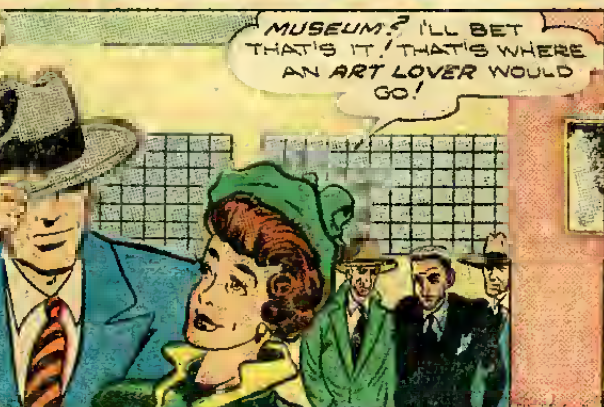
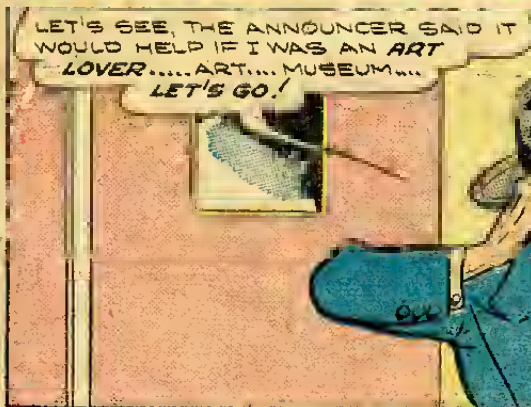
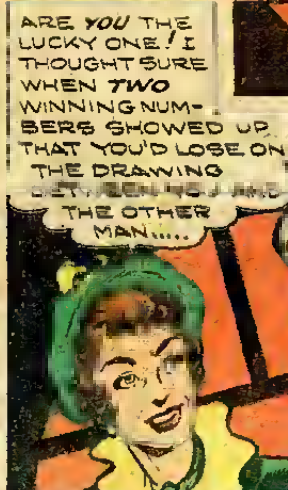
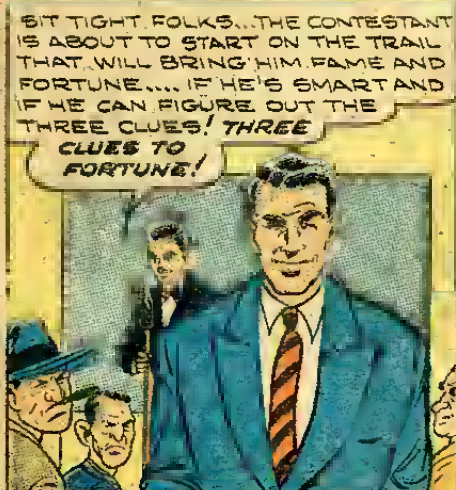


YES, HERE WE ARE AGAIN BRINGING YOU THE GIVEAWAY SHOW TO END ALL GIVEAWAY SHOWS. FOLLOW THE RIDDLE!... AND WE'LL GIVE YOU YOUR HEART'S DESIRE!

C'MON... SNAP IT UP, BUB, GET TO THE GIVEAWAY!

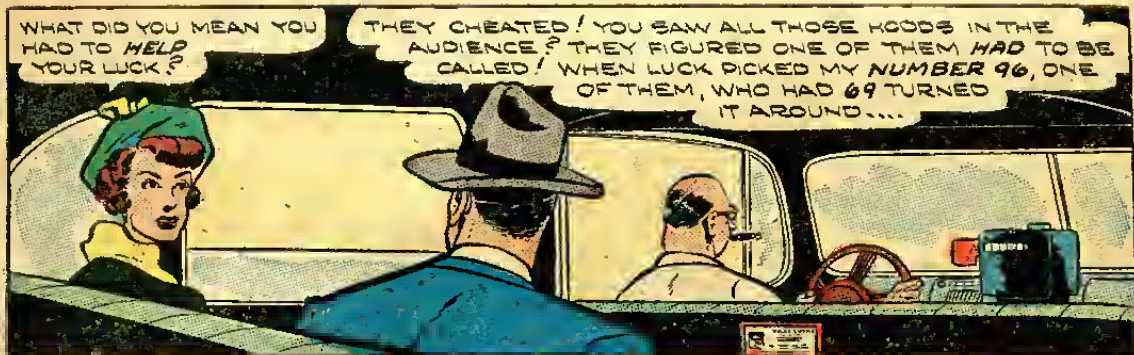


TUNE IN EACH WEEK TO THE OF THE **SHADOW**



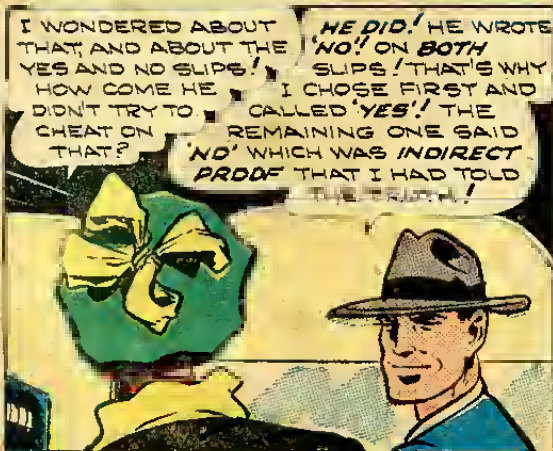
THRILLING ADVENTURES

CONSULT YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS FOR TIME AND STATION



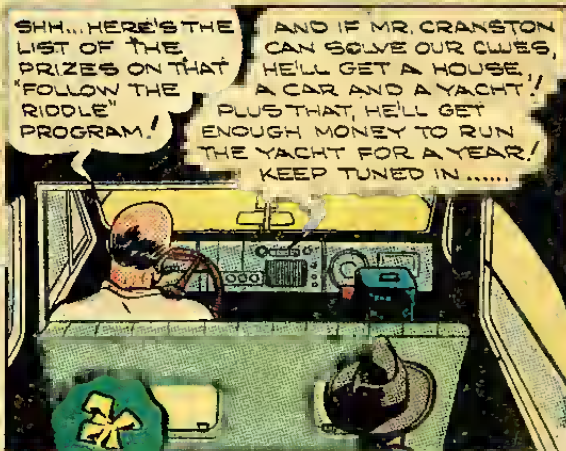
WHAT DID YOU MEAN YOU HAD TO **HELP** YOUR LUCK?

THEY CHEATED! YOU SAW ALL THOSE KODAKS IN THE AUDIENCE? THEY FIGURED ONE OF THEM **HAD** TO BE CALLED! WHEN LUCK PICKED MY **NUMBER 96**, ONE OF THEM, WHO HAD **69** TURNED IT AROUND....



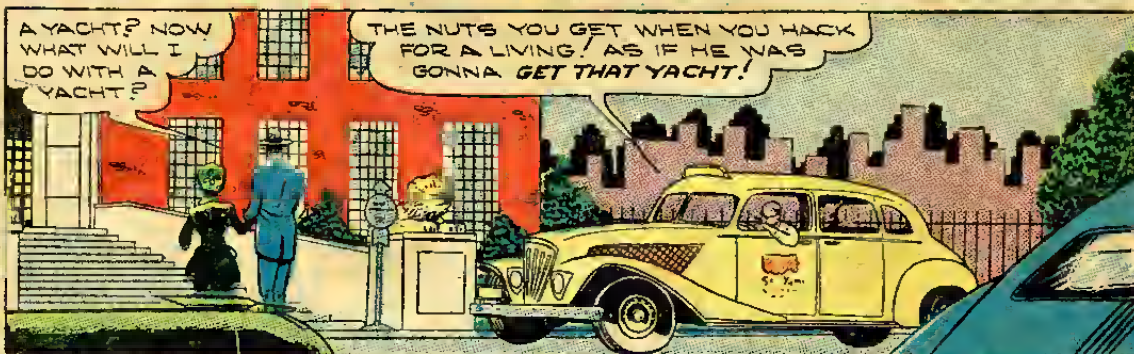
I WONDERED ABOUT THAT AND ABOUT THE YES AND NO SLIPS! HOW COME HE DIDN'T TRY TO CHEAT ON THAT?

HE DID! HE WROTE **'NO'** ON **BOTH** SLIPS! THAT'S WHY I CHOSE FIRST AND CALLED **'YES'**! THE REMAINING ONE SAID **'NO'** WHICH WAS **INDIRECT PROOF** THAT I HAD TOLD THE TRUTH!



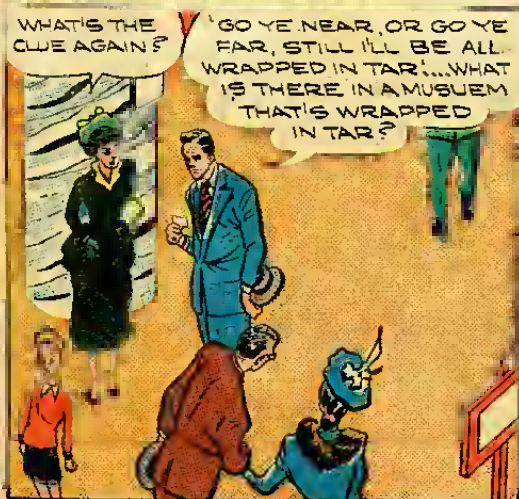
SHH... HERE'S THE LIST OF THE PRIZES ON THAT "FOLLOW THE RIDDLE" PROGRAM!

AND IF MR. CRANSTON CAN SOLVE OUR CLUES, HE'LL GET A HOUSE, A CAR AND A YACHT! PLUS THAT, HE'LL GET ENOUGH MONEY TO RUN THE YACHT FOR A YEAR! KEEP TUNED IN.....



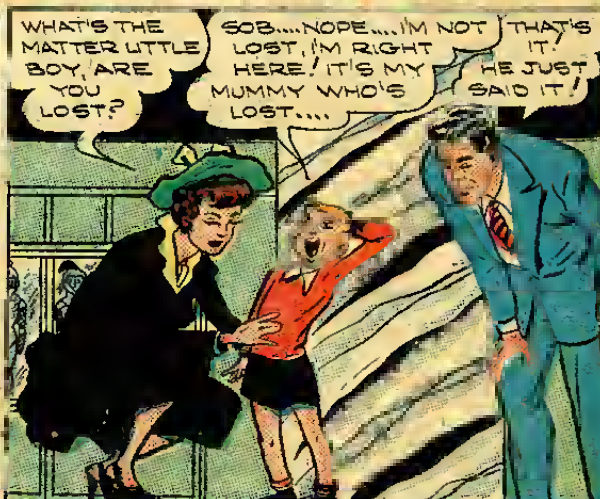
A YACHT? NOW WHAT WILL I DO WITH A YACHT?

THE NUTS YOU GET WHEN YOU HACK FOR A LIVING! AS IF HE WAS GONNA **GET THAT YACHT!**



WHAT'S THE CLUE AGAIN?

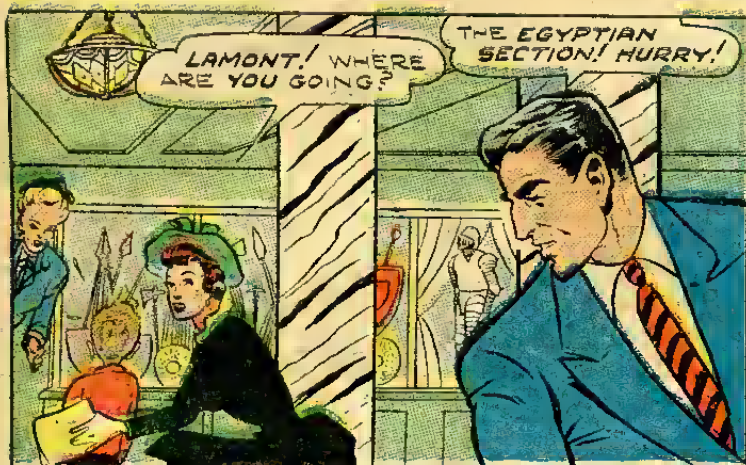
GO YE NEAR, OR GO YE FAR, STILL I'LL BE ALL WRAPPED IN TAR!...WHAT IS THERE IN A MUSEUM THAT'S WRAPPED IN TAR?



WHAT'S THE MATTER LITTLE BOY, ARE YOU LOST?

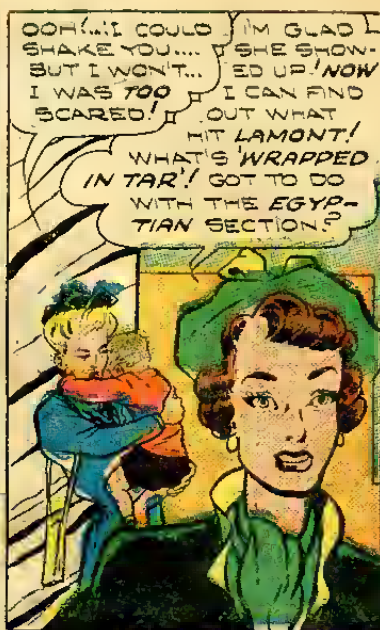
SOB.....NOPE.....I'M NOT LOST, I'M RIGHT HERE! IT'S MY MUMMY WHO'S LOST....

THAT'S IT. HE JUST SAID IT!



LAMONT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

THE EGYPTIAN SECTION! HURRY!



OOH! I COULD SHAKE YOU... I'M GLAD BUT I WON'T... I WAS TOO SCARED! I CAN FIND OUT WHAT HIT LAMONT! WHAT'S WRAPPED IN TAR! GOT TO DO WITH THE EGYPTIAN SECTION?

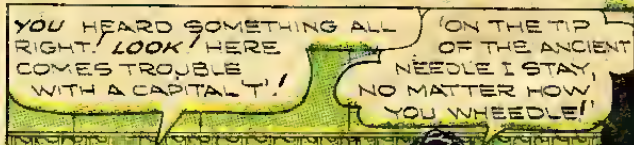


LAMONT! WHAT SET YOU OFF?

WHEN THE LITTLE BOY SAID, 'MUMMY' I REMEMBERED THAT MUMMIES BANDAGES WERE SOAKED WITH RESIN SO AS TO RESIST ROTTING!



GREAT! THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING! WHAT DOES IT MEAN? RESIN IS MADE FROM TAR... REMEMBER THE CLUE? AND HERE IT IS...



YOU HEARD SOMETHING ALL RIGHT! LOOK! HERE COMES TROUBLE WITH A CAPITAL T!

ON THE TIP OF THE ANCIENT NEEDLE I STAY, NO MATTER HOW YOU WHEEL!



ALL WRAPPED IN TAR! I GET IT NOW! LAMONT.... DON'T DAWDLE! WHAT DOES THIS CLUE SAY? WAIT... DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING, DOWN THE HALL...





EVEN WITH THOSE MASKS ON, I'LL BET THESE ARE THOSE SWEET CHARACTERS THAT WE SAW AT THE RADIO STATION!

SHH!...
GET DOWN
BEHIND THERE,
AND STAY PUT!
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED
BADLY....



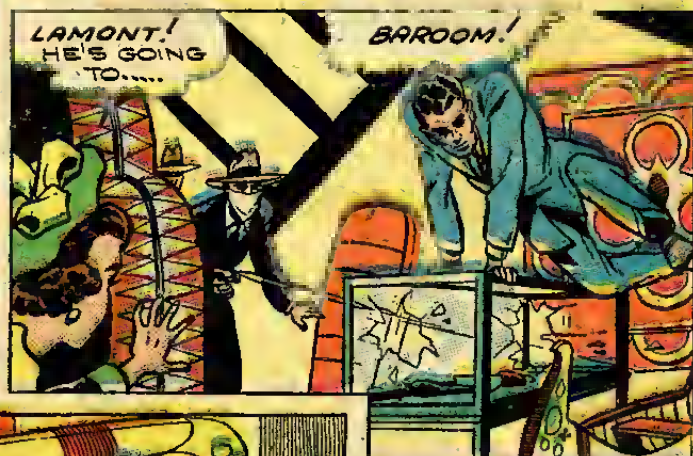
YOU GOT TWO SECONDS TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND!
HAND OVER THAT GUN OR.....
I'LL TAKE IT AFTER I
BLAST YOU IN
HALF!

THAT'S VERY
GENEROUS OF YOU,
DO YOU MIND IF I THINK
OVER YOUR
PROPOSITION?



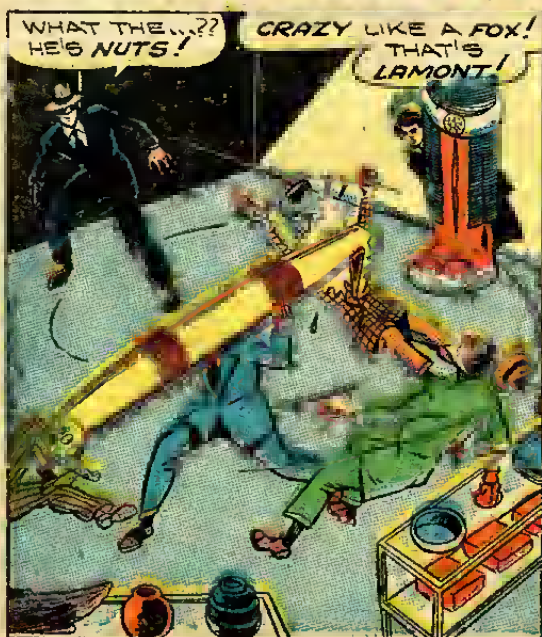
GET HIM!... WE AIN'T
GOT NO TIME TO
LOUSE AROUND.
THE TIME IS
RUNNING
OUT....

COME
ON BOYS,
JUST A
LITTLE CLOSER
PLEASE....



LAMONT!
HE'S GOING
TO....

BARROOM!



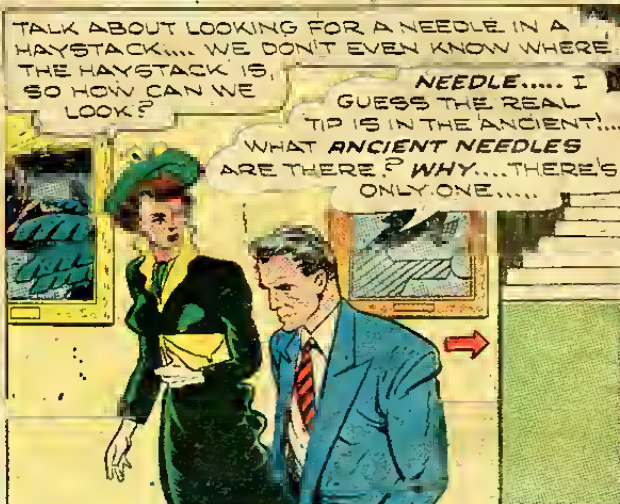
WHAT THE...??
HE'S NUTS!

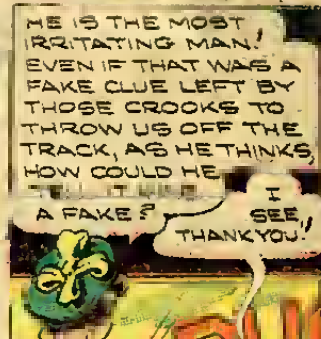
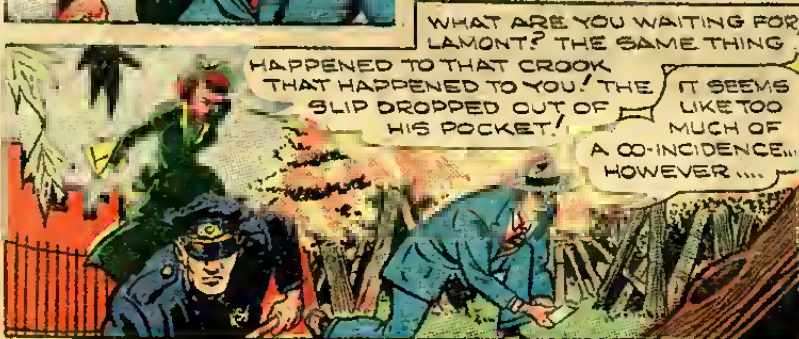
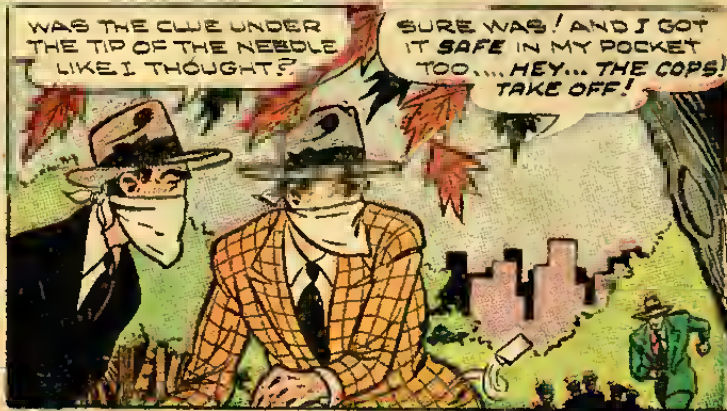
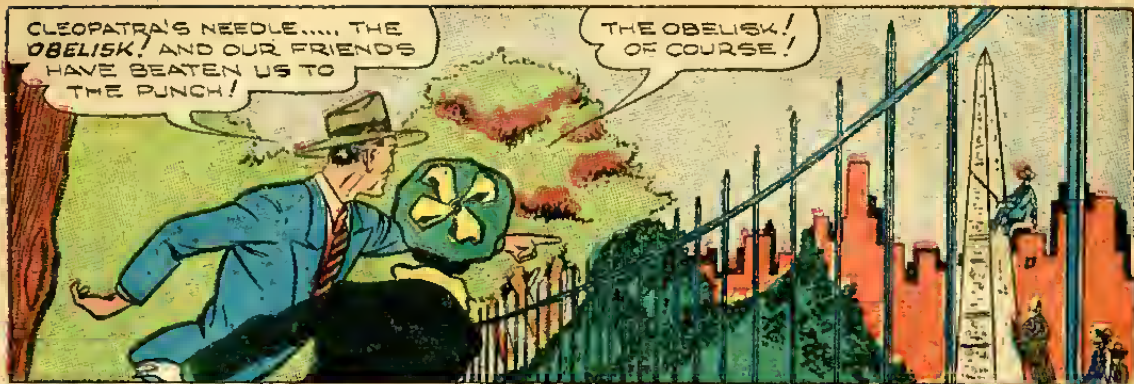
CRAZY LIKE A FOX!
THAT'S
LAMONT!

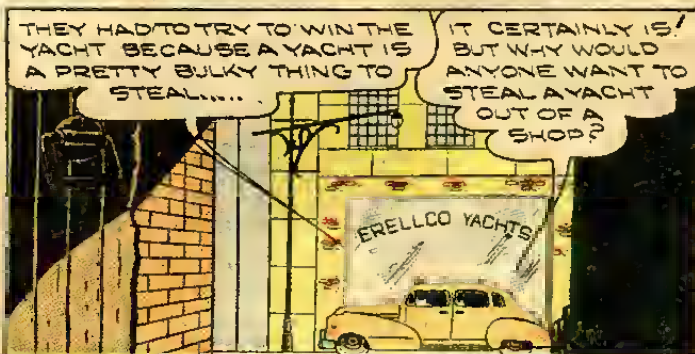
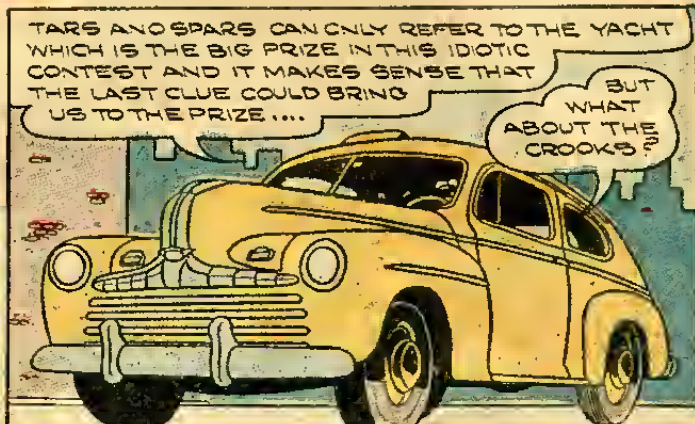
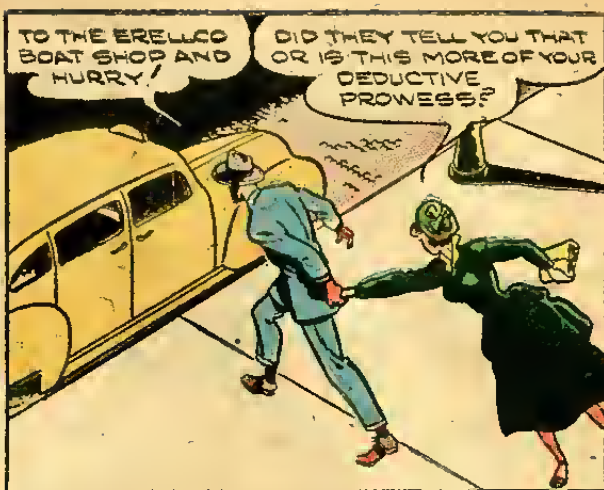


HAPPY
HEADACHES
BOYS....

BONG... BANG
BLAM....









THOSE SATCHELS ARE BAD... THAT MEANS TROUBLE!

THINK THEY HAVE GUNS IN THEM?



THEY'RE SURE TO! THEY'VE GONE TO TOO MUCH TROUBLE NOT TO FIGHT IF THEY MUST!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY A GANG OF CROOKS WOULD WANT A YACHT... AND PARTICULARLY A YACHT THAT'S ON DRY LAND? WHAT GOOD IS IT TO THEM?



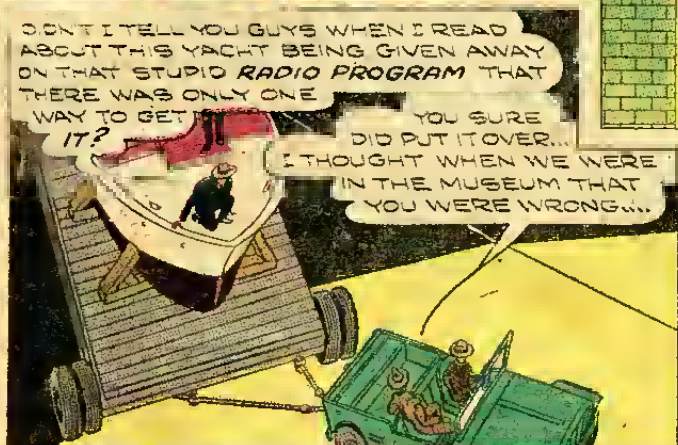
NO TIME TO TALK NOW, GO GET AS MANY POLICEMEN AS YOU CAN... I'LL HAVE TO CALL ON THE SHADOW TO HOLD THE FORT TILL YOU GET BACK!

BE CAREFUL, LAMONT... THEY'RE DESPERATE MEN!



AS THE CAB CAREENS OFF FOR HELP, LAMONT CRANSTON DUCKS INTO AN ALLEY....

I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE REASON WHY THERE IS NEED FOR THEM TO HAVE THE YACHT.... I MUST BE RIGHT... NOTHING ELSE FITS THE EQUATION!

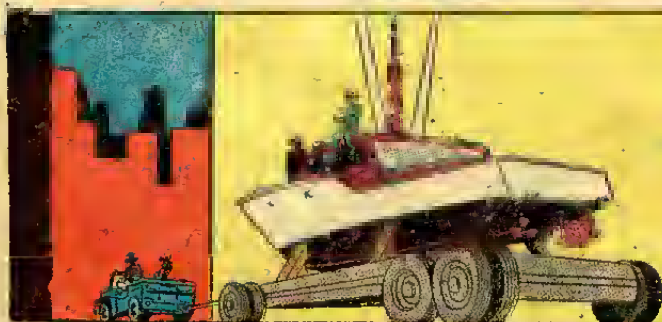


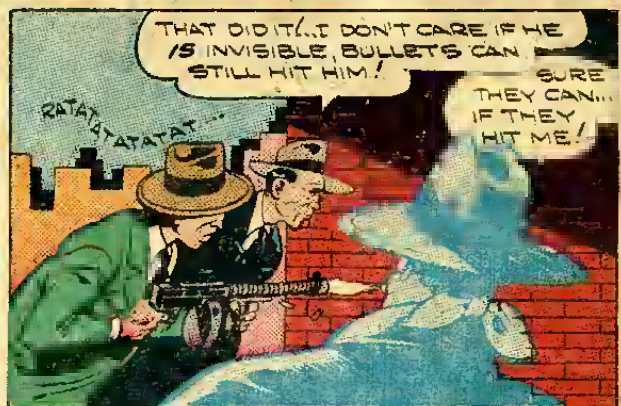
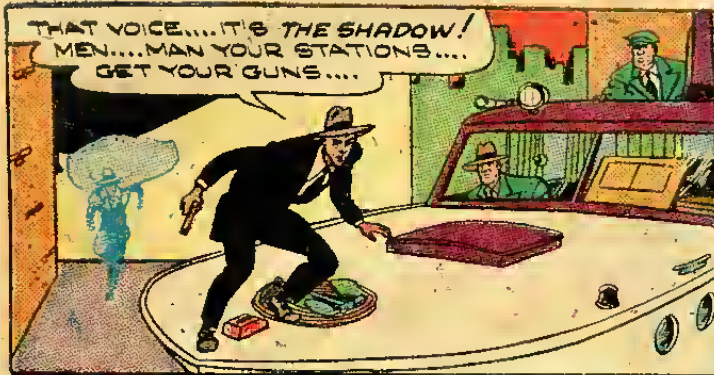
DON'T I TELL YOU GUYS WHEN I READ ABOUT THIS YACHT BEING GIVEN AWAY ON THAT STUPID RADIO PROGRAM THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO GET IT?

YOU SURE DID PUT IT OVER... I THOUGHT WHEN WE WERE IN THE MUSEUM THAT YOU WERE WRONG...

LAMONT CRANSTON IS GONE... AND IN HIS PLACE IS THE INVISIBLE CRUSADER AGAINST CRIME THE SHADOW....

AND HE'S STILL WRONG... AS WRONG AS HE CAN BE



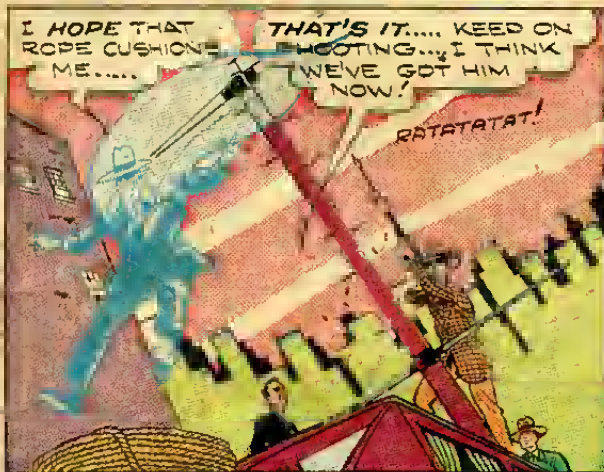




OOOF!

NEXT? FOUR BARBERS, NO WAITING!
WHO'S READY FOR THE NEXT,
CLOSE SHAVE?

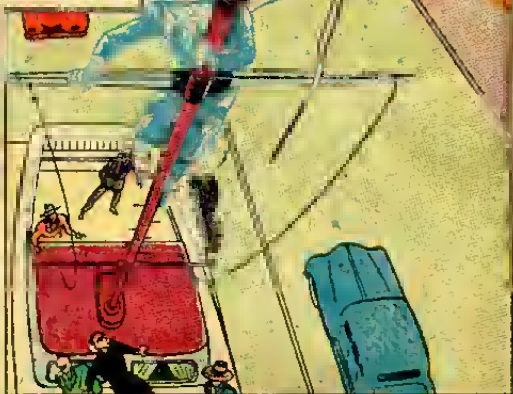
WITH ALL THIS TRAFFIC
AROUND, THERE'S DANGER
THEY'LL FIRE AT ME AND
HIT SOME INNOCENT
BY STANDER! I
BETTER GET
HIGH SO THAT
WHEN THEY
FIRE AT ME
THEY AIM
HIGH....
THERE'S NO
WIND... IT MUST
BE HIM GOING UP
IT! FIRE....



I HOPE THAT
ROPE CUSHION
ME.....

THAT'S IT.... KEEP ON
SHOOTING... I THINK
WE'VE GOT HIM
NOW!

RATATATAT!



I HOPE MARGO GETS BACK WITH THE
POLICE SOON.... I DON'T KNOW HOW
MUCH MORE FUN AND
GAMES I CAN WHIP
UP....



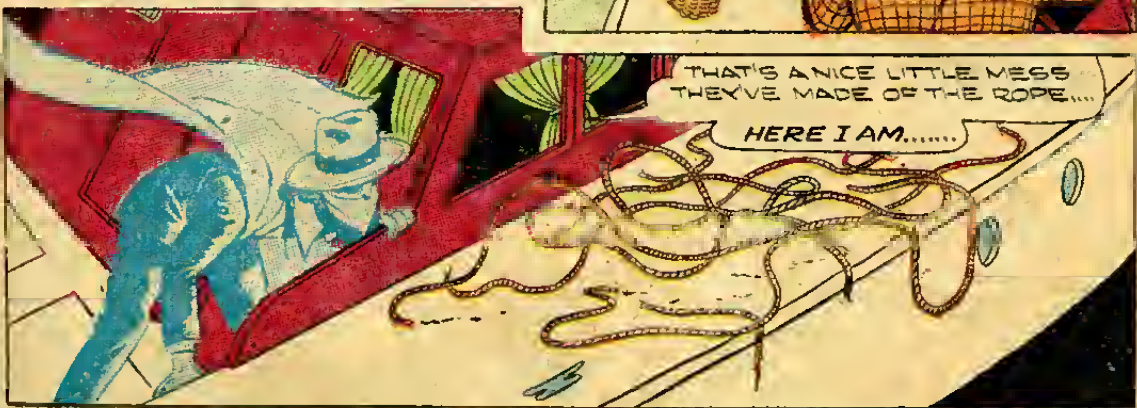
CEASE FIRE... I JUST SAW
THAT COIL OF ROPE
COMPRESS.... EVERY-
ONE STAY STILL...

AND NOW
FOR MY
VERSION
OF THE ROPE
TRICK... TADA...



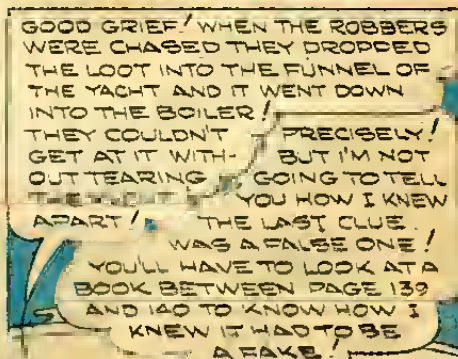
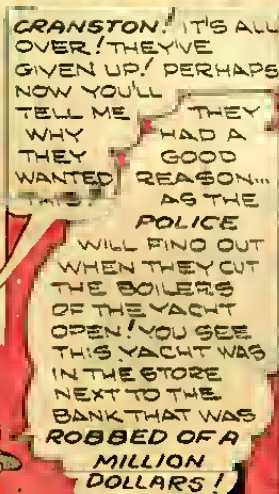
RATATATATAT!!

THAT'S IT...
SHOOT IT
TO SHREDS!



THAT'S A NICE LITTLE MESS
THEY'VE MADE OF THE ROPE....

HERE I AM.....



DOC SAVAGE THE ODD HALO



EVEN PLATO MENTIONS A STRANGE CONTINENT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...THE BIGGEST CITY OF THAT CONTINENT, ACCORDING TO PLATO WAS ATLANTIS...DOC SAVAGE KNEW THAT...BUT HE ALSO KNEW THAT IT WAS THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO THAT PLATO MADE THE REFERENCE TO THE SUNKEN CONTINENT...AND YET THERE WERE THOSE STRANGE HALOS!

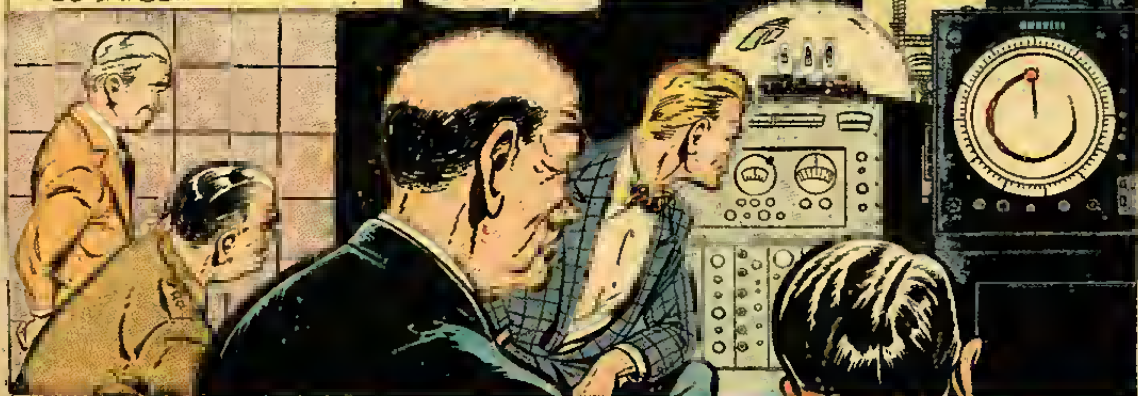
Powell

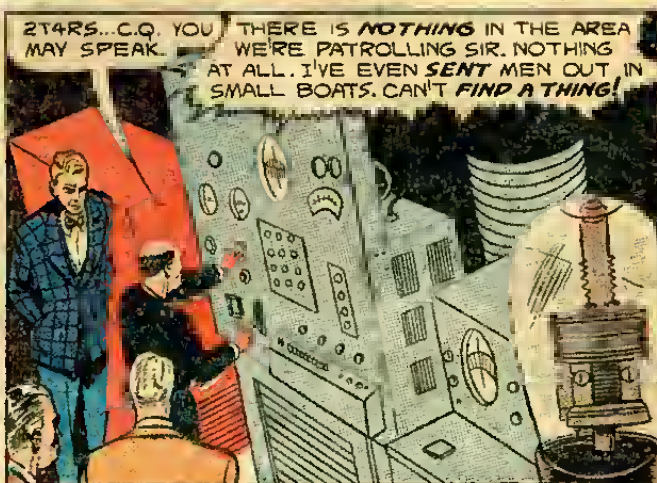
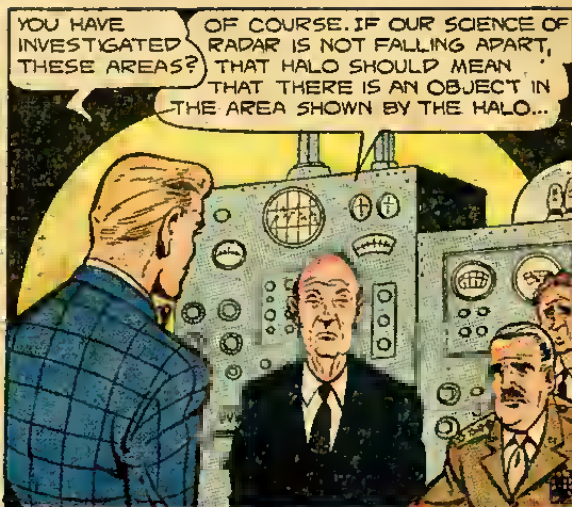
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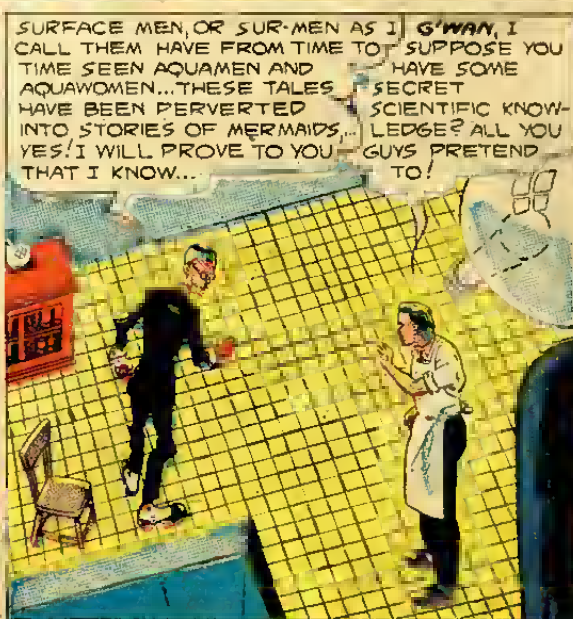
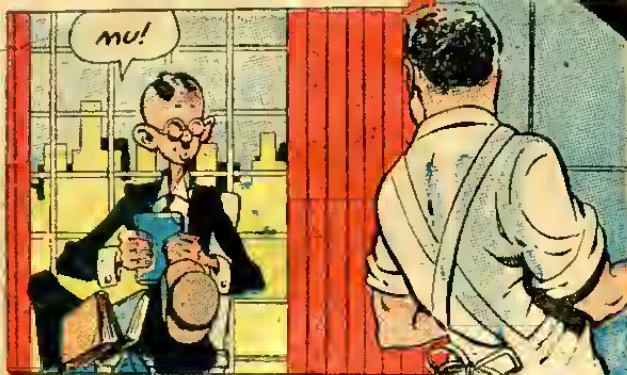
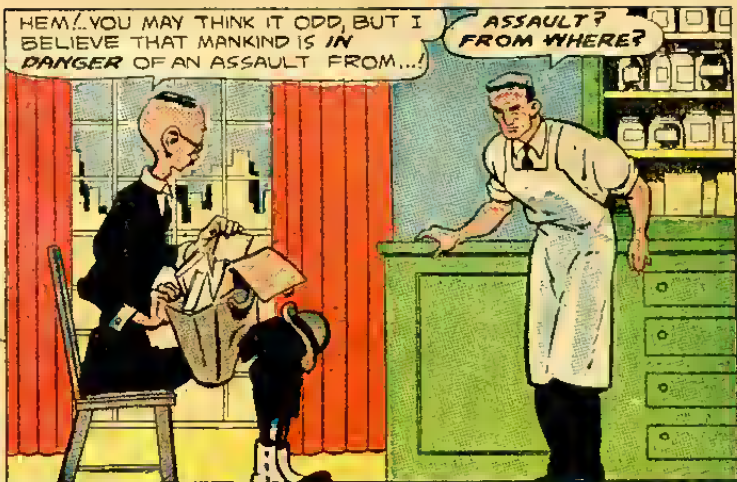
WASHINGTON D.C. A HURRIEDLY CALLED CONFERENCE INCLUDES THE BEST SCIENTIFIC BRAINS IN THE COUNTRY...NEEDLESS TO SAY DOC SAVAGE...

SO FAR THERE'S **NOT** A TRACE OF THIS **PECULIAR** PHENOMENA WE'VE SPOKEN ABOUT... BUT WAIT...

I THINK I SEE A TRACE OF IT...







SCOOPER! I WILL PROVE THAT I HAVE LEARNED SOME OF THE ATLANTEAN KNOWLEDGE! WHEN I RETURN I EXPECT YOU TO LISTEN TO ME! **RESPECTFULLY!**

YOU AIN'T GONNA GO NO PLACE THAT WAY...



I WILL BE BACK AND I WANT YOU TO BE MORE **ATTENTIVE** WHEN I RETURN!



PERHAPS I CAN GET A CLUE TO THESE HALOS BY USING MY MINATURE RADAR SET UP...NOW LET'S SEE...

DOC! DID YOU HEAR ME? A GUY JUST **WALKED** THROUGH THIS WALL AFTER GIVING ME A SPIEL ABOUT OUR WORLD BEING IN DANGER OF INVASION!!

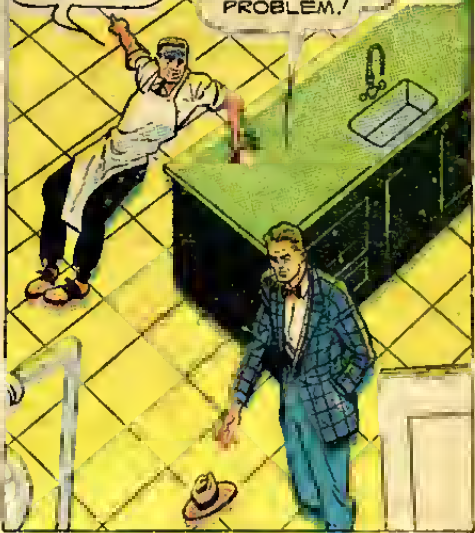


FOOL! WAIT A MINUTE! THIS IS **PREPOSTEROUS!** YOU CAN'T WALK THROUGH A WALL!



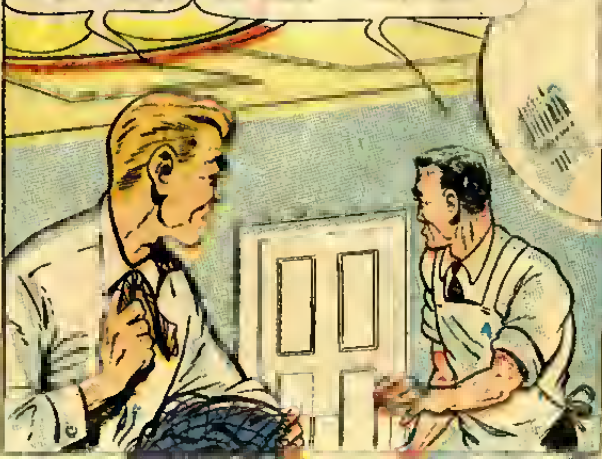
DOC! AM I GLAD YOU GOT BACK! **LISTEN,** A GUY JUST WALKED THROUGH THE WALL! **RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!**

THAT'S VERY INTERESTING! TELL ME ABOUT IT LATER! I WANT TO GET TO WORK ON A RADAR PROBLEM!



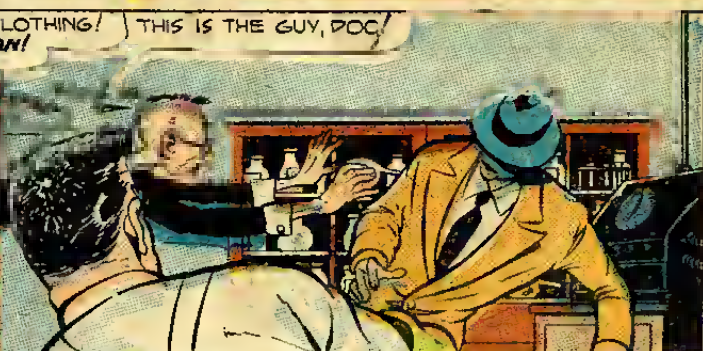
INVASION ?!! FROM WHERE?

ATLANTIS! THE DOOR! THAT MUST BE **OPDE** COMING BACK!





GET HIM! HE'S A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING! HE'S NOT HUMAN! HE'S AN ATLANTEAN! I KNOW, I CAN RECOGNIZE THEM!!



WHOA!... TAKE IT EASY!... IF THERE'S GONNA BE ANY ROUGH STUFF, I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT... DR. SAVAGE...

WATCH THAT MAN'S THROAT UNDER WATER... THAT WILL PROVE WHAT I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOUR STUPID FRIEND!



YOU SEE? GILLS IN HIS THROAT/MY READING SHOWS ME THAT THEY ARE TIRED OF THEIR UNDER WATER EXISTANCE/ THEY WANT TO COME BACK TO THE SURFACE WHERE THEY CAME FROM TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO!!

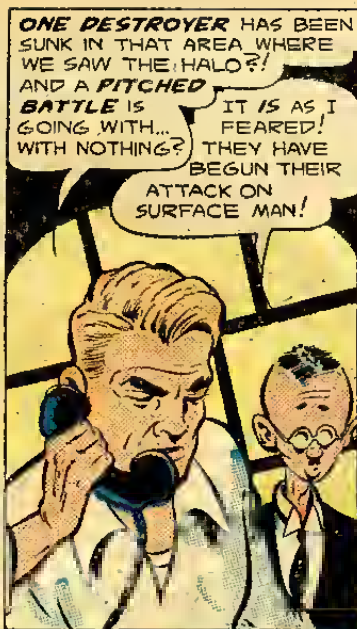


I JUST CAME BACK IN TIME! HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT COCK AND BULL STORY HE WAS ABOUT TO TELL NOW I'M IN ORDER! GLAD I DIDN'T TO TRICK YOU! HEAVE YOU OUT, FRIEND/SPEAK ON!





HOLD EVERYTHING, THAT MAY BE A CALL FROM WASHINGTON!



ONE DESTROYER HAS BEEN SUNK IN THAT AREA WHERE WE SAW THE HALO?! AND A PITCHED BATTLE IS GOING WITH... WITH NOTHING? IT IS AS I FEARED! THEY HAVE BEGUN THEIR ATTACK ON SURFACE MAN!

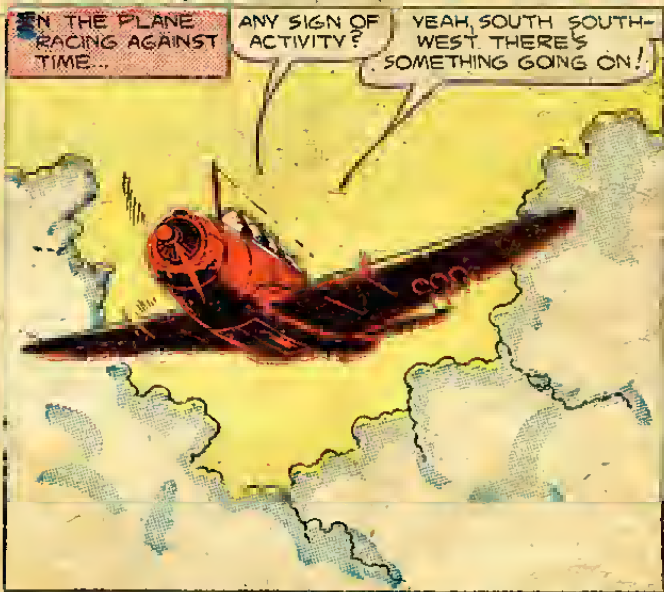


MONK, PLANE READY? WE'LL TAKE OFF AS SOON AS I GET SOME BOMBS, GET ODDE ON THE PLANE AND HAVE IT READY TO TAKE OFF! ROGER! LET'S GO, PAL...HEY!! DOC! WHAT ABOUT OUR FISH MAN?



GET HIM OUT OF THE WATER AND TIE HIM UP! WE'LL QUESTION HIM LATER! BUT HURRY, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!

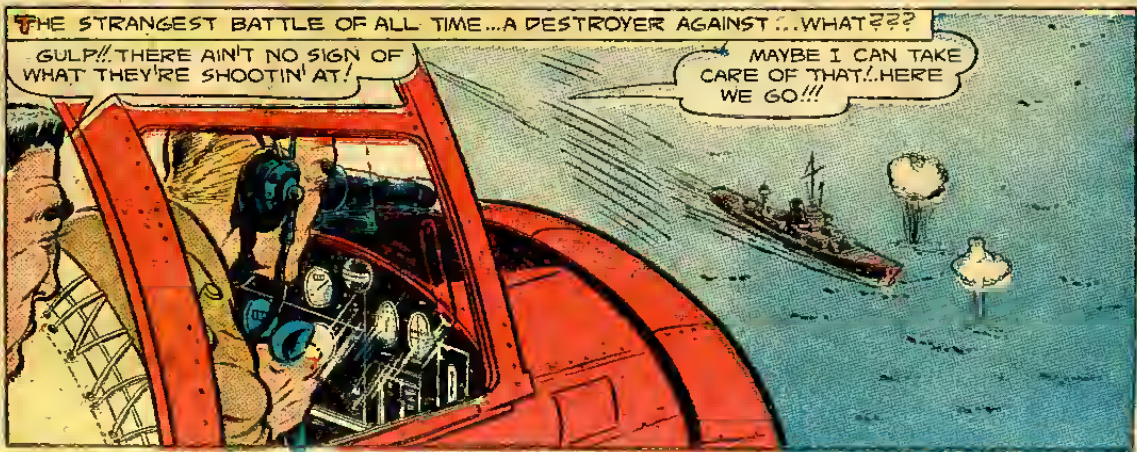
OKAY! YOU GET DOWN TO THE PLANE WITH DOC, ODDE, I'LL TIE UP THIS MACKERAL!!



IN THE PLANE RACING AGAINST TIME...

ANY SIGN OF ACTIVITY?

YEAH, SOUTH SOUTH-WEST THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON!



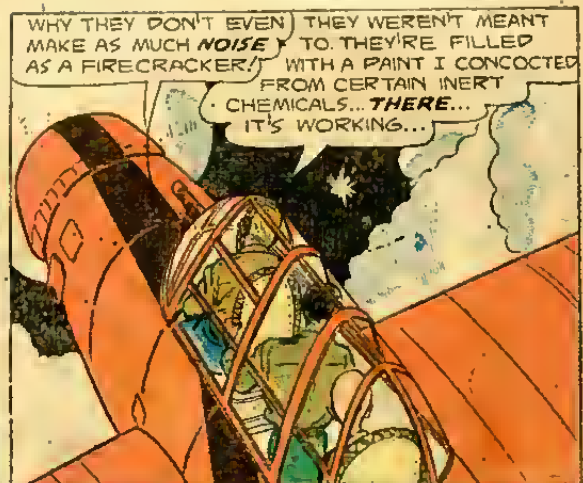
THE STRANGEST BATTLE OF ALL TIME...A DESTROYER AGAINST...WHAT???

GULP!! THERE AIN'T NO SIGN OF WHAT THEY'RE SHOOTIN' AT!

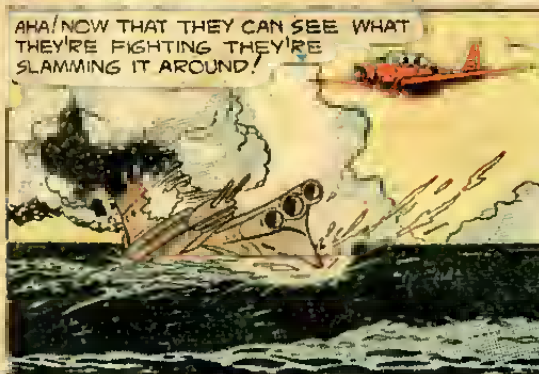
MAYBE I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT!...HERE WE GO!!!



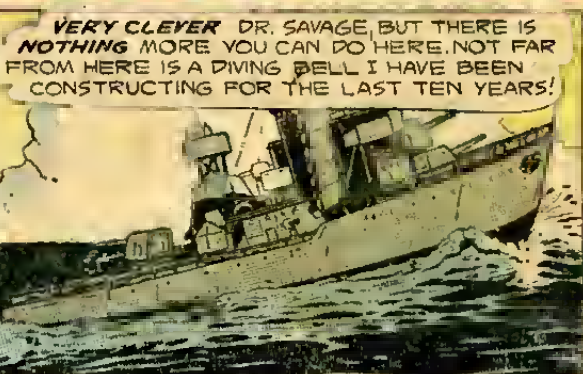
I HOPE DOC KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOIN! THESE LITTLE THINGS DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY'D HURT A FLY... OKAY **DOC**, I DROPPED 'EM IN A FAN SHAPE!



WHY THEY DON'T EVEN MAKE AS MUCH **NOISE** TO. THEY'RE FILLED AS A FIRECRACKER! WITH A PAINT I CONCOCTED FROM CERTAIN INERT CHEMICALS... **THERE...** IT'S WORKING...



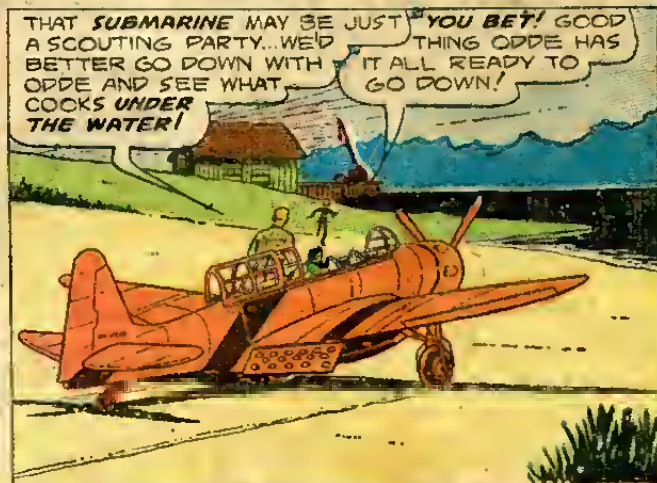
AHA! NOW THAT THEY CAN SEE WHAT THEY'RE FIGHTING THEY'RE SLAMMING IT AROUND!



VERY CLEVER DR. SAVAGE, BUT THERE IS **NOTHING** MORE YOU CAN DO HERE. NOT FAR FROM HERE IS A DIVING BELL I HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTING FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS!



I HAVE USED THE ATLANTEANS OWN KNOWLEDGE IN MAKING THE DIVING BELL! WITH IT WE CAN GO DOWN DEEPER THAN MAN HAS EVER GONE! **LET'S GO, I WANT TO SEE SOME OF THESE MACKERELS IN THEIR HOME WATERS!**



THAT **SUBMARINE** MAY BE JUST A SCOUTING PARTY... WE'D BETTER GO DOWN WITH **OPDE** AND SEE WHAT **COOKS UNDER THE WATER!** **YOU BET! GOOD THING OPDE HAS IT ALL READY TO GO DOWN!**

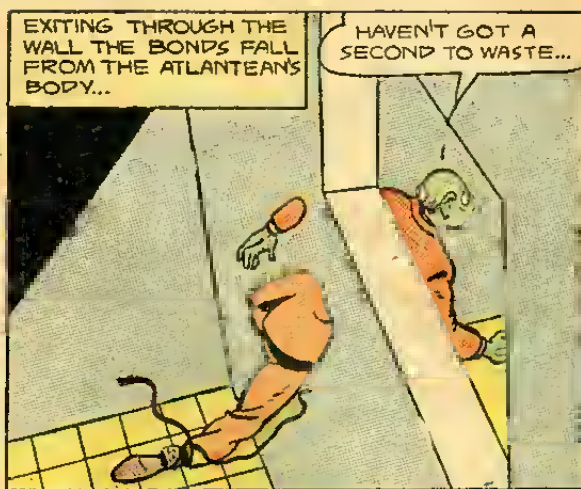


MEANWHILE... BACK AT **DOC'S LAB...**

THEY'RE GONE... I MUST GET TO THEM! INSTANTLY... THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE...

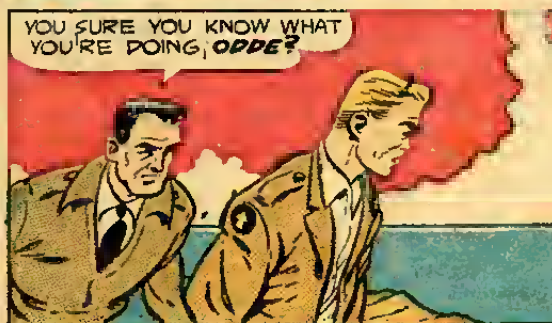


TO DATE NO ONE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THE SEA BATTLE BEING WAGED OFF PROVINCE-- THEY MUST HAVE GONE THERE... WE WILL BRING YOU NEWS AS SOON AS WE CAN...
I CAN CATCH THEM... IF I HURRY...

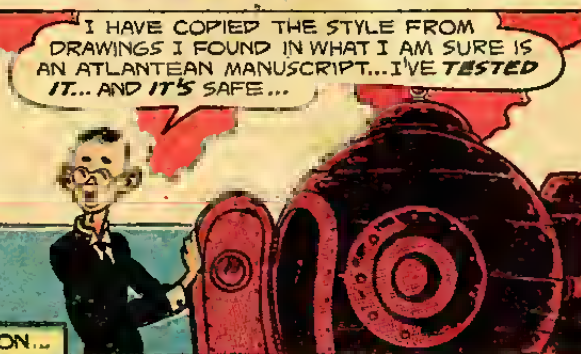


EXITING THROUGH THE WALL THE BONDS FALL FROM THE ATLANTEAN BODY...

HAVEN'T GOT A SECOND TO WASTE...



YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, ORDE?

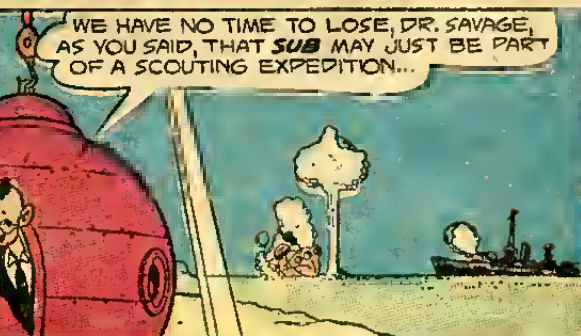


I HAVE COPIED THE STYLE FROM DRAWINGS I FOUND IN WHAT I AM SURE IS AN ATLANTEAN MANUSCRIPT... I'VE TESTED IT... AND IT'S SAFE...

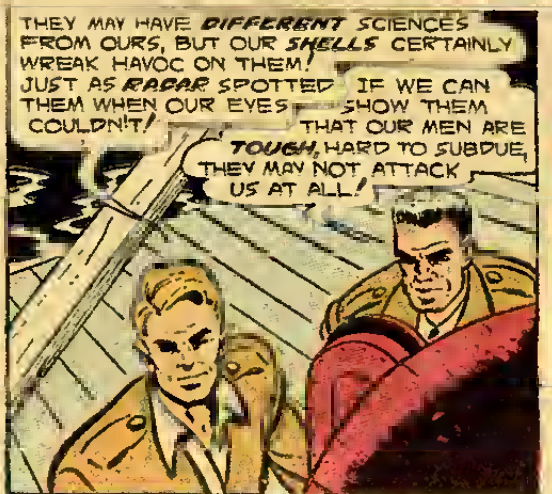
THE DIVING BELL IS OF STRANGE CONSTRUCTION...



YOUR PAINT BOMBS SURE DID THE TRICK, DOC! LOOKA THE WAY THAT SUB IS HEELING OFF!

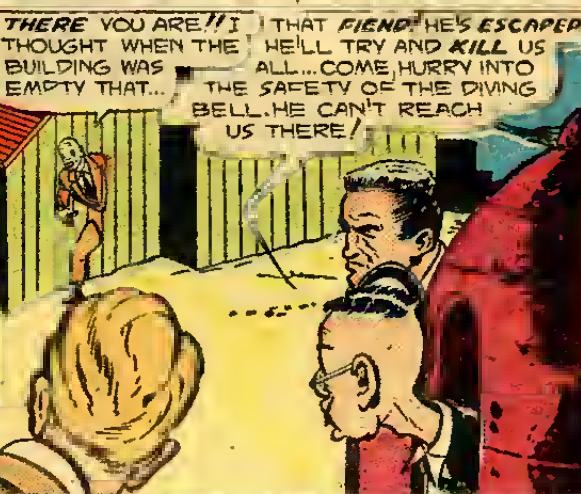


WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE, DR. SAVAGE, AS YOU SAID, THAT SUB MAY JUST BE PART OF A SCOUTING EXPEDITION...



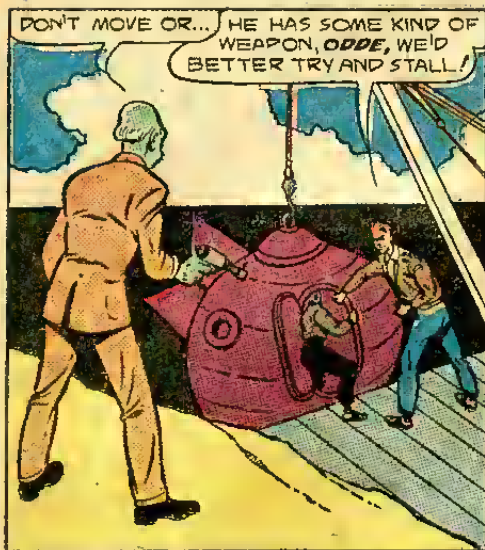
THEY MAY HAVE DIFFERENT SCIENCES FROM OURS, BUT OUR SHELLS CERTAINLY WREAK HAVOC ON THEM! JUST AS RADAR SPOTTED THEM WHEN OUR EYES COULDN'T!

THAT OUR MEN ARE TOUGH, HARD TO SUBDU, THEY MAY NOT ATTACK US AT ALL!

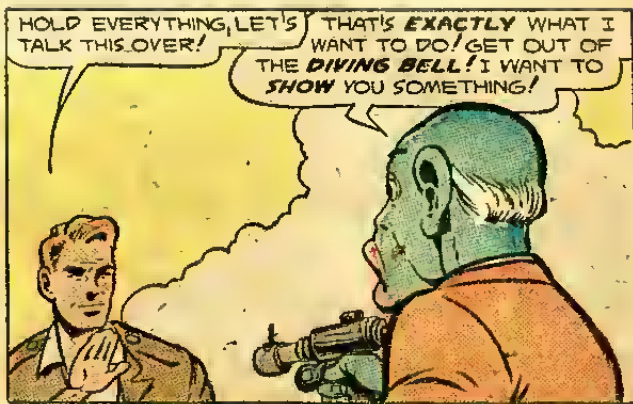


THERE YOU ARE!! I THOUGHT WHEN THE BUILDING WAS EMPTY THAT...

THAT FIEND HE'S ESCAPED HE'LL TRY AND KILL US ALL... COME, HURRY INTO THE SAFETY OF THE DIVING BELL. HE CAN'T REACH US THERE!



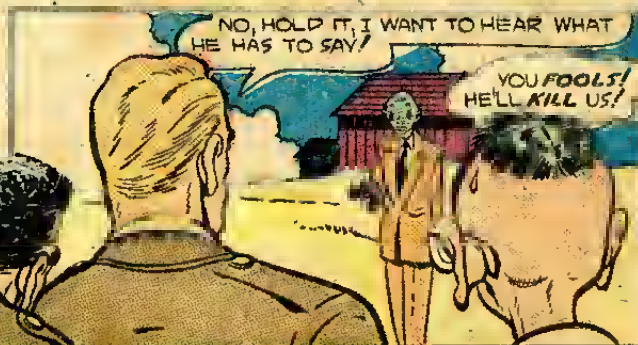
DON'T MOVE OR... HE HAS SOME KIND OF WEAPON, *ODDE*, WE'D BETTER TRY AND STALL!



HOLD EVERYTHING, LET'S TALK THIS OVER! THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT I WANT TO DO! GET OUT OF THE DIVING BELL! I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING!



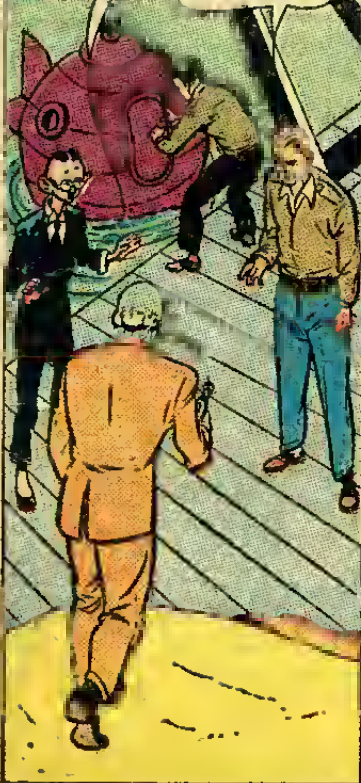
SHOULD WE LAY DOGGO 'TILL HE GETS CLOSE AND THEN JUMP HIM?



NO, HOLD IT, I WANT TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY!

YOU FOOLS! HE'LL KILL US!

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS! I WANT YOU TO BATTEN DOWN THE TOP OF THE DIVING BELL... DO WHAT HE SAYS MONK!



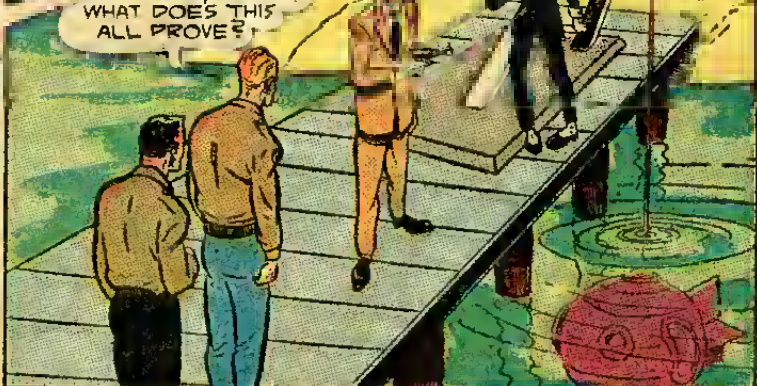
HE'S DESTROYING ALL MY WORK!

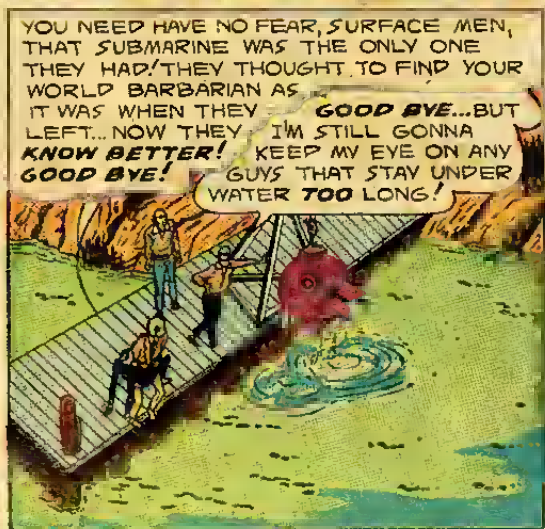
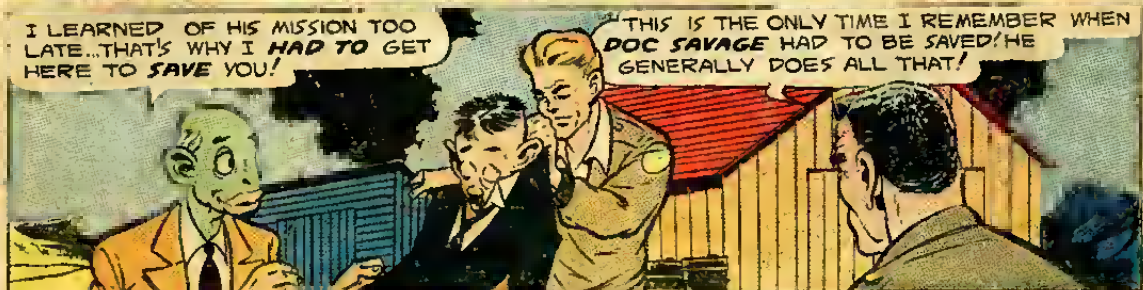
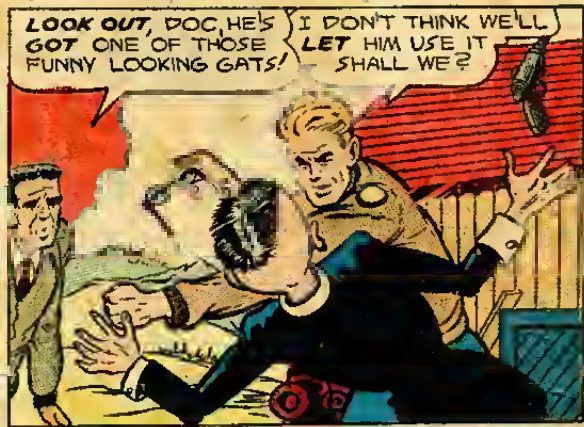
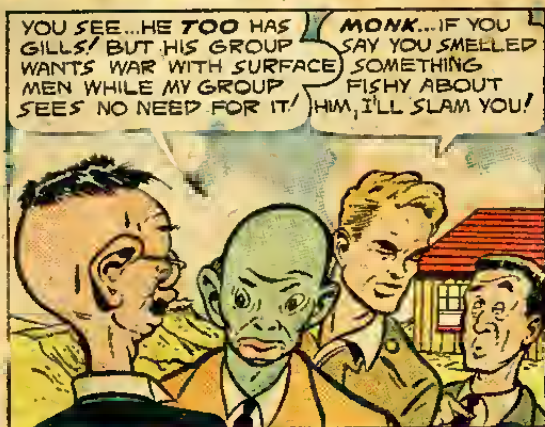
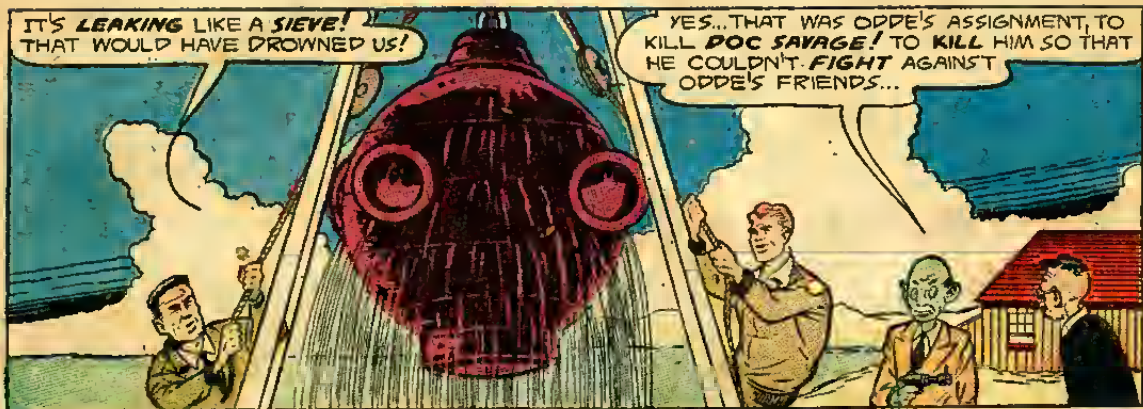


QUIET, YOU RUBBISH OR I'LL WIPE YOU OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

YOU WILL SEE WHEN I PULL THE DIVING BELL BACK ON DRY LAND! WILL YOU TWO HELP ME?

WELL, PISCES, WHAT DOES THIS ALL PROVE?





NICK CARTER MASTER DETECTIVE IN "NICK CARTER ACCUSED"

Powell
FEATURES

FOR THE INNOCENT, THE CLOAK OF GUILT IS HEAVY.... FOR THE GUILTY IT IS SMOTHERING..... WHEN A MAN DOESN'T KNOW IF HE IS INNOCENT OR GUILTY IT IS LIKE A ROPE AROUND HIS NECK.. AS NICK CARTER DISCOVERED IN HIS MOST PUZZLING ADVENTURE.....

IT ALL STARTED IN A LOW BUT HAPPY PERIOD IN THE CARTER CAREER.....

ANY HOT CASES JUST ON THE FIRE 'SIMMERS,' MR. CARTER? JOE, PATSY AND I SPENT THE DAY PLAYING G-N-RUMMY!



SUDDENLY....NICK'S HAPPY TUNE TURNS INTO A SOUR NOTE.....



THE DOOR
CLOSES.....

A FEW MINUTES LATER THE DOOR IS
CAREFULLY OPENED, A FIGURE APPEARS
AND IT IS NONE OTHER THAN.....



NICK CARTER.....



MORNING
SLEEPY-HEAD...
YOU'RE TEN
MINUTES
LATE!

I'VE BEEN OUT
DIGGING UP
SOME BUSINESS,
PATSY. A CLIENT
WILL BE UP HERE IN
TEN MINUTES!



TEN MINUTES LATER.....

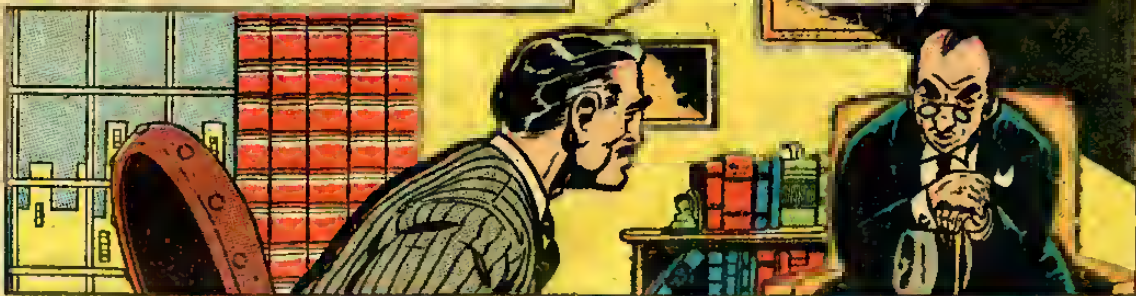
I'M RANDOLPH WINCH...
MR. CARTER IS
EXPECTING
ME....

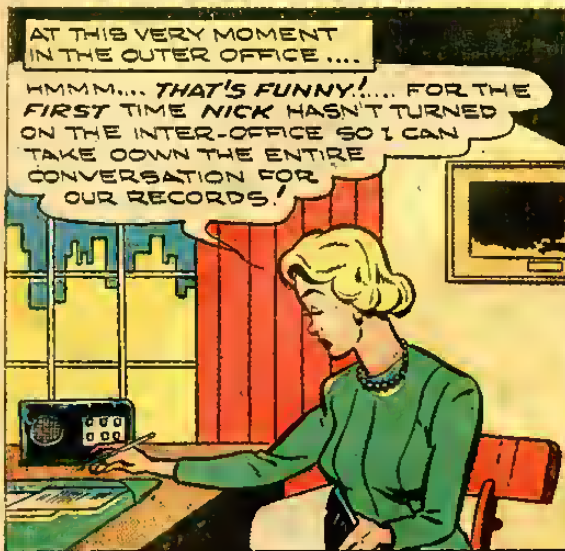
I KNOW....
GO RIGHT IN....



I GOT YOUR CALL AT
MY HOME, MR. WINCH
AND YOUR IN-
SISTENCE UPON
SECRECY HAS
MY CURIOSITY
AROUSED....

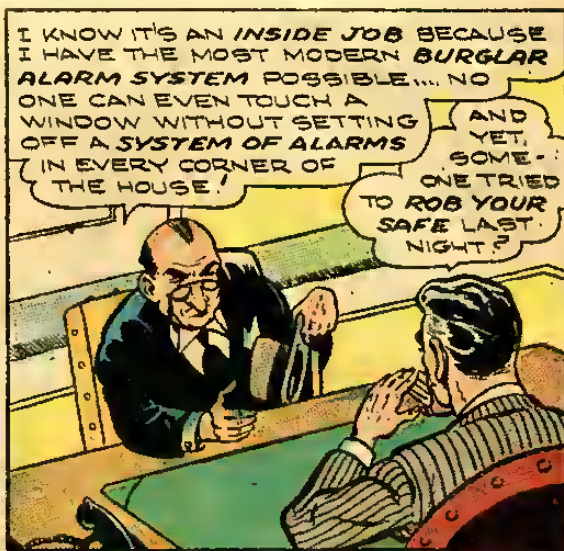
MINE IS A TRAGIC
STATE OF AFFAIRS,
MR. CARTER SOME-
ONE IN MY OWN
HOME IS TRYING TO ROB
MY WIFE OF HER
JEWELS....\$90,000
WORTH OF THEM!





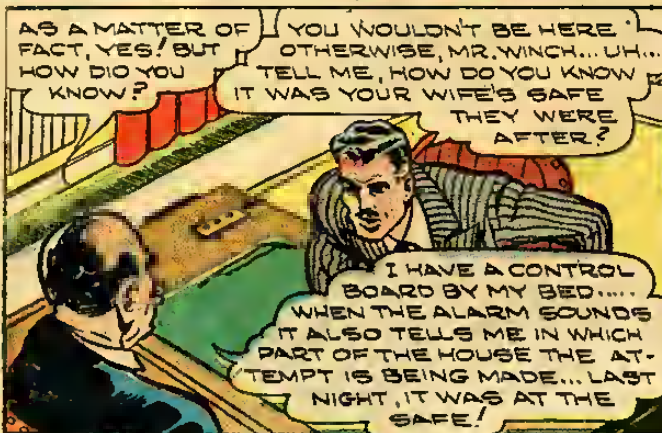
AT THIS VERY MOMENT
IN THE OUTER OFFICE

HMMM... *THAT'S FUNNY!*.... FOR THE
FIRST TIME NICK HASN'T TURNED
ON THE INTER-OFFICE SO I CAN
TAKE DOWN THE ENTIRE
CONVERSATION FOR
OUR RECORDS!



I KNOW IT'S AN *INSIDE JOB* BECAUSE
I HAVE THE MOST MODERN *BURGLAR
ALARM SYSTEM* POSSIBLE... NO
ONE CAN EVEN TOUCH A
WINDOW WITHOUT SETTING
OFF A *SYSTEM OF ALARMS*
IN EVERY CORNER OF
THE HOUSE!

AND
YET,
SOME-
ONE TRIED
TO ROB YOUR
SAFE LAST
NIGHT?



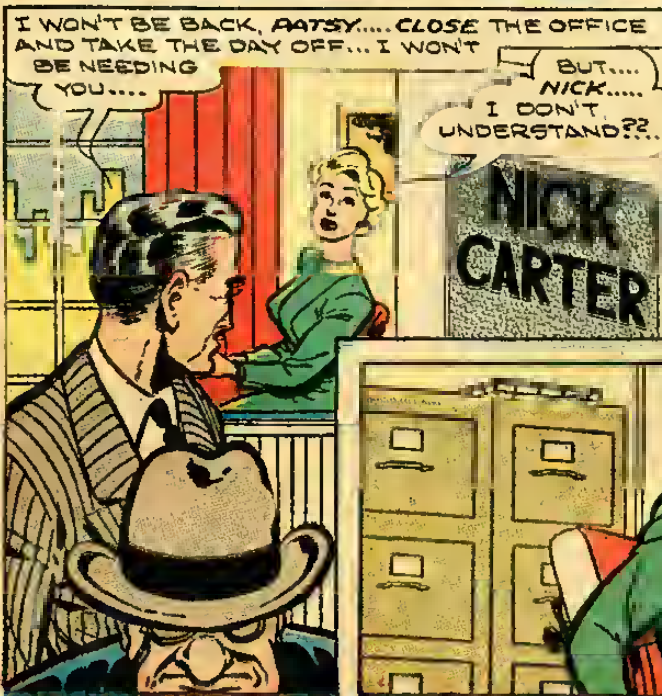
AS A MATTER OF
FACT, YES! BUT
HOW DO YOU
KNOW?

YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE
OTHERWISE, MR. WINCH... UH...
TELL ME, HOW DO YOU KNOW
IT WAS YOUR WIFE'S SAFE
THEY WERE
AFTER?

I HAVE A CONTROL
BOARD BY MY BED....
WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS
IT ALSO TELLS ME IN WHICH
PART OF THE HOUSE THE AT-
TEMPT IS BEING MADE... LAST
NIGHT, IT WAS AT THE
SAFE!



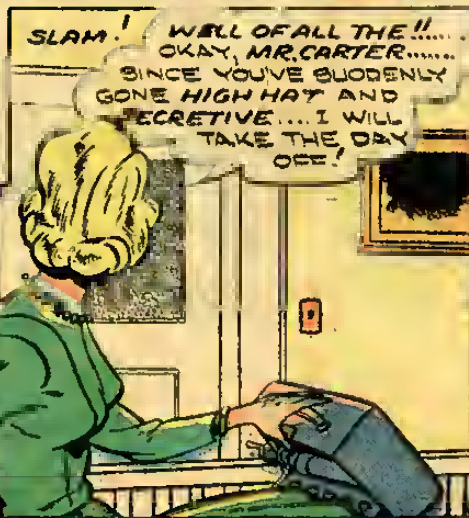
MR. WINCH... I THINK IT WOULD BE
A GOOD IDEA IF I INSPECTED
YOUR HOUSE, JUST TO
MAKE SURE YOUR ALARM WE'LL
SYSTEM IS AS SAFE GO
AS IT IS SUPPOSED RIGHT OUT,
TO BE! MR. CARTER?



I WON'T BE BACK, PATSY.... CLOSE THE OFFICE
AND TAKE THE DAY OFF... I WON'T
BE NEEDING
YOU....

BUT....
NICK.....
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND??

NICK
CARTER



SLAM! WELL OF ALL THE!!!
OKAY, MR. CARTER.....
SINCE YOU'VE SUDDENLY
GONE HIGH HAT AND
SECRETIVE... I WILL
TAKE THE DAY
OFF!



A SHORT TIME LATER, THEY ARRIVE AT THE LONG ISLAND HOME OF RANDOLPH WINCH.....

MABEL... WHERE IS SUMMERS?



IT'S THE BUTLER'S DAY OFF, MR. WINCH, THAT'S WHY I'M ANSWERING THE DOOR, SIR!



SEE THAT WE'RE NOT DISTURBED, MABEL... THE SAFE IS RIGHT OVER HERE, BEHIND MY WIFE'S PORTRAIT, CARTER!

A BEAUTIFUL PORTRAIT OF A LOVELY WOMAN, MR. WINCH!



LOVELY... BEAUTIFUL! BUT ONE OF THE COLDEST, CRUELEST, MOST VIOLENT WOMEN THAT EVER LIVED, MR. CARTER... WE DETEST EACH OTHER!

I... I'M SORRY!!



THE JEWELS ARE IN THIS BOX, MR. CARTER. I HAVE THE COMBINATION! WHEN MY WIFE WISHES TO WEAR ANY OF THEM, I OPEN THE SAFE AND GIVE IT TO HER. I CAN'T TRUST HER WITH THE COMBINATION!

SHE'S TAKING EVERYTHING AND GAMBLE IT AWAY!

I... I UNDERSTAND!



DIAMONDS, RUBIES, PEARLS... EMERALDS... PLATINUM, GOLD, SILVER... \$80,000 WORTH! DO YOU WONDER I PROTECT MY HOME SO CAREFULLY?

MMMMM.....



BUT NOT CAREFULLY ENOUGH, MR. WINCH... I'LL TAKE THESE...

WH... WHAT? WH... WHY... YOU... YOU!!



TUNE IN EACH WEEK TO **NICK CARTER** OVER MUTUAL NETWORK

SOMETIME LATER IN THE HALLWAY LEADING TO NICK CARTER'S OFFICE THE JANITOR CLOSET DOOR OPENS AND....

OHHH...MY HEAD... CAN'T... CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...WH...WHERE AM I?... WHERE'VE I...BEEN?... MY MINDS A...A... BLANK!



FOR THE LIVIA PETE!...WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?...THESE PANTS... THEY'RE... THEY'RE NOT MINE! BUT I BETTER PUT 'EM ON!



HHMM... A PERFECT FIT!... STRANGE.



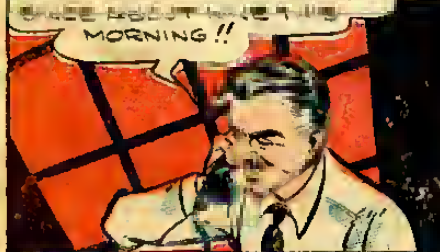
LOCKED!... PATSY'S GONE HOME... MUST BE LATE..... I'LL HAVE TO GET THE PORTER TO LET ME IN!



...B...BUT PATSY... I COULDN'T HAVE I...I DIDN'T...I DON'T KNOW WHERE I WAS ALL DAY. I REGAINED MY SENSES IN THE HALL AND I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING..... NO..... I DON'T REMEMBER SENDING YOU HOME.... I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED

THERE ARE TIMES, CARTER WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT TO FORGET...ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'VE STOLEN \$50,000 WORTH OF JEWELS!

WH...WHAT? NICK... NICK... WHAT'S WRONG? WHO'S THERE?



FINALLY GAINING ENTRANCE TO HIS OFFICE NICK CALLS PATSY... WHAT SHE TELLS HIM COMES AS A BIG SURPRISE....



SUNDAY EVENING
630 P.M. EST.

sponsored by

OLD DUTCH
CLEANSER



NEW YORK WORLD
MASTER DETECTIVE
URNS MASTER CROOK
NICK CARTER DENIES \$90,000 THEFT
 N.Y. STRONGLY DENYING GUILT, BUT UNABLE TO EXPLAIN HIS ACTIONS BETWEEN 9:00 A.M. YESTERDAY MORNING AND 1:00 P.M. YESTERDAY EVENING, NICK CARTER MASTER DETECTIVE IS BEING HELD AS THE DARING THIEF WHO CALMLY WALKED INTO THE HOME OF RANDY WINCH AND WALKED OUT WITH \$90,000 WORTH OF JEWELS.....

THE FOLLOWING DAY AFTER THREE HOURS OF GRILLING IN THE D.A.'S OFFICE....

NOT UNTIL EITHER YOU OR I CAN PROVE THAT I DID IT! I HAVE NO MEMORY WHATSOEVER OF WHAT HAPPENED TO ME IN THE HOURS BETWEEN 9:00 A.M. AND 1:00 P.M.!

SO YOU STILL DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE ROBBERY CARTER..... YOU'LL CONFESS NOTHING!



YOU DARE TO SAY I'VE NO PROOF... HERE... YOUR OWN SECRETARY SAYS YOU CAME INTO THE OFFICE AT 9:10 A.M. AND LEFT AT 9:30 A.M. WITH THAT I MR. WINCH... MR. REMEMBER WINCH SAYS YOU TALKING TO WENT WITH HIM TO WINCH ON THE HIS LONG ISLAND PHONE AT MY HOME... I TOLD HIM TO MEET ME AT MY OFFICE... BUT THE REST I'VE NO RECOLLECTION OF!



AND TO BACK UP WINCH'S WORD THAT YOU DID ARRIVE AT HIS ESTATE AND LEAVE WITH HIM CARRYING THE BOX OF JEWELS... THIS GIRL, THE UPSTAIRS MAID, OPENED THE DOOR TO LET YOU IN AND OUT!

YES... I DID... I CERTAINLY DID... IT WAS SUMMER'S DAY OFF SO I DID BUTLER AND MAID... AND I LET HIM IN AND OUT ALL RIGHT... ALL



THERE IT IS, D.A.... THREE WITNESSES... ONE OF 'EM HIS OWN SECRETARY! GIVE ME A COUPLE O' HOURS WITH HIM IN THE "WORK" ROOM AND I'LL HAVE THOSE JEWELS FOR YOU, PLUS A CONFESSION!

OKAY INSPECTOR! DESPITE HMMM! THE EVIDENCE I CAN BRING MYSELF TO BELIEVE THAT... BUT... WELL... OKAY!



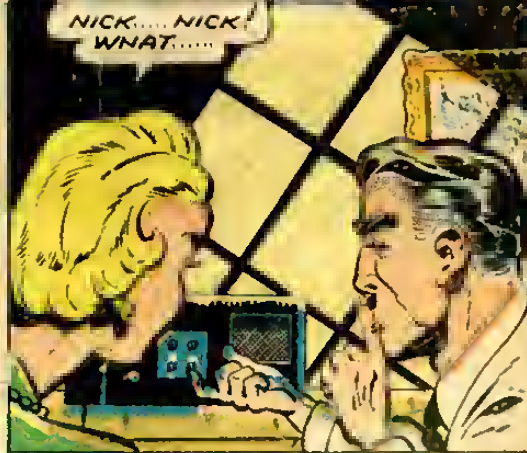
I'VE NEVER TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP MR. DRAKE... BUT I'M GOING TO ASK YOU FOR ONE MINUTE ALONE WITH PATSY, MY SECRETARY... ONE MINUTE... WHICH MAY BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY INNOCENCE AND GUILT!

DON'T GET IT... BUT I



WANT YOU TO PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE... OKAY... CLEAR THE ROOM INSPECTOR!

NICK... NICK! WHAT.....



OKAY? TRYING MY
EVERYTHING TRICKS!
IT SET!

NOW LET ME SEE... THIS
GENT WEIGHS 183.....
HEIGHT SIX FOOT ONE...
SIT DOWN OVER THERE
AND WE'LL CHECK
ME, MISTER.

183 RIGHT YOU'RE RIGHT! SIX FOOT
ON THE ONE, DATSY...
NOSE... LET'S GO! THERE'S OKAY...
NOW QUIETER PLACES BUT
FOR TO BE THAN NOT
YOUR HERE! BEFORE WE
HEIGHT... HAVE OUR
PICTURES TAKEN
TOGETHER... A
MEMENTO OF THIS
EVENING FOREVER



AN... I WASN'T REALLY
LISTENIN'... JUST HAPPENED
TO BE GOIN' BY... AN...
BUT... WHATCHA
GOT!



A DAY LATER AT THE HOME OF RANDOLPH WINCH...

WELL, DAD... HAS
CARTER CON-
FESSED HE
STOLE THE
JEWELS?
NO... NOT YET, SON! BUT THE
INSPECTOR CALLED TO SAY
THEY'VE BEEN GRILLING HIM FOR
TWO DAYS AND HE IS BEGINNING
TO WEAKEN. SAYS HE'LL BREAK
AND TELL WHERE THE JEWELS
ARE BEFORE MORNING...



IT'S IRONIC THAT THE
DETECTIVE YOUR WIFE
SUGGESTED TO PROTECT
THE JEWELS SHOULD BE
THE ONE TO STEAL EM...
VERY... AH...
IRONIC!



APOLOGIZE, DERICK!...
I'M IN NO MOOD FOR
ARGUMENTS TONIGHT!



THE FOLLOWING DAY
DATSY VISITS NICK...

HE'S EXACTLY YOUR WEIGHT
AND HEIGHT, NICK...
AND LOOK AT THIS
PICTURE!



LUMM... YES! INSPEC-
TOR... GET YOUR EAR
AWAY FROM THOSE
EARPHONES AND
COME IN AND LOOK
AT THIS!



A PICTURE OF THE
REAL ROBBER.
HERE... TAKE
A LOOK AT
THIS!



NICK'S PENCIL MAKES A FEW
QUICK STROKES AND...

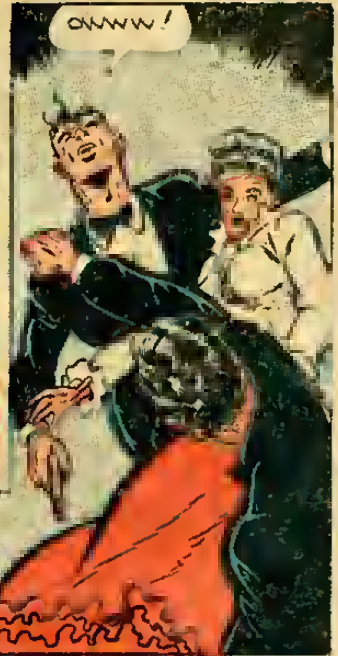
THERE... HOLY SMOKE! WITH
THAT MUSTACHE
YOU'VE DRAWN ON
HIM... IT'S YOU!

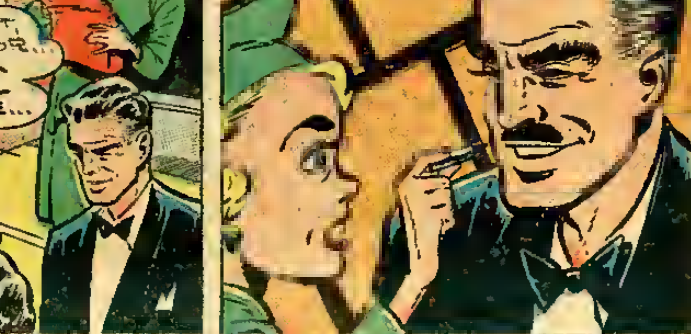
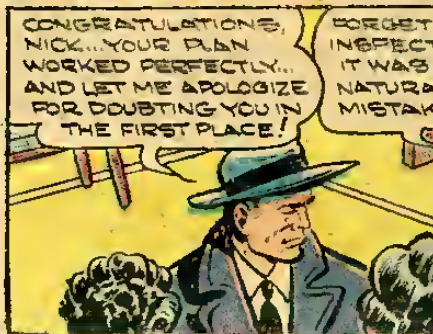
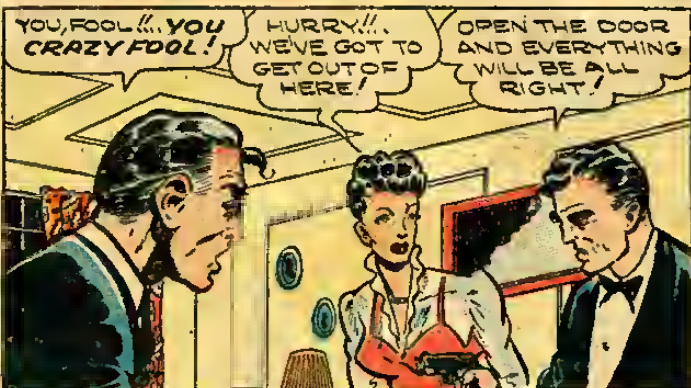


...NOT ONLY THAT... BUT
THEIR HEIGHT AND WEIGHT ARE
THE SAME! I HAD HIM
WEIGHED AND
MEASURED LAST
NIGHT!

ALTHO I'M JUST YOUR STEPMOTHER
I'LL NOT STAND FOR YOUR
INFERENCES THAT I'M
A THIEF!







CHICK

CARTER

"THREE SQUARES AND THE INNER CIRCLE"

Pluto

FEATHER



CHICK CARTER ADOPTED SON OF NICK CARTER, KNOWS WELL THE HELPING HAND OF AN UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHETIC PERSON.... FOR HE, BEFORE MEETING NICK WAS HOMELESS AND FRIENDLESS... A POTENTIAL DELINQUENT, NOW TRAINED IN THE METHODS OF MODERN DETECTION, HE AND HIS FRIENDS OF THE INNER CIRCLE DEVOTE THEIR SPARE TIME TO FITTING DELINQUENT SQUARE PEGS INTO USEFUL CITIZENS OF THE INNER CIRCLE.....

HERE ARE THE THREE SQUARE PEGS OF OUR STORY WHO LIVE BY THEIR OWN RULES AND THEIR OWN WARDERD SENSE OF HUMOR.....

OKAY, POR...HOW ABOUT ME?...YOU GAVE CHANGE FER THE ING BOYS STOP KIDD- TEN BUCKS I AND PAY ME LISTEN GIVE YUH FER FOR THREE TUH THE OUR SODAS? MILK SHAKES!... OLE GEEZER! IT'S LATE... I HE' STRYIN' WANNA CLOSE UP TSK... TO CON US! TSK...TAKIN ADVANTAGE O' POOR INNOCENT KIDS LIKE US... TSK...TSK...



YEAH...TAKIN' ADVANTAGE O' CHILDREN.... GET OVER DERE!

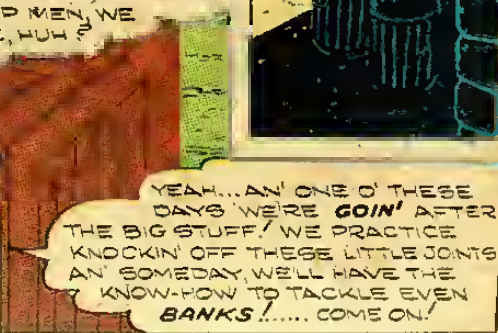
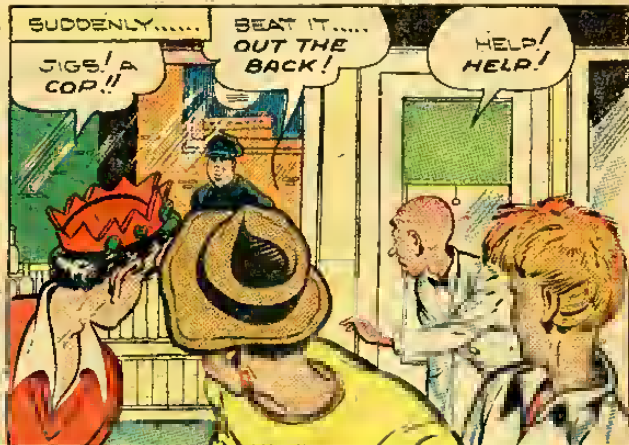
HEY!... WHY YOU YOUNG PUNKS PLU...PLU...



YOU'LL WHAT?...

UGH... OHHHH.....





DAILY GAZETTE

KID GANGS PREY UPON CITY...

CRIME WEARS FIGURATIVE KNEE PANTS

THESE DAYS...KID GANGS ARE PREYING UPON SMALL STORE-KEEPERS, ROBBING AND BEATING THEM....POLICE HESITATE TO SHOOT AT THESE TEEN AGE GANGS...FOR FEAR OF POSSIBLE PUBLIC INDIGNATION...THIS PROBLEM IS GETTING EXTREMELY SERIOUS AND STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN.

.....THREE KIDS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. SO FAR, THEY'VE APPEARED IN THE BETNER, CORBER, WEST END SECTIONS AND LAST NIGHT....MARGATE SECTION.....

A FEW MINUTES LATER.....

.....I'M CONVINCED IT'S THE SAME **THREE KIDS**.... AND I THINK WE CAN SPOT 'EM IF WE KEEP OUR EYES OPEN.... NOW, WE'RE GOING TO PATROL THE **PASSNER SECTION** TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT UNTIL THEY SHOW.... REMEMBER....**THREE KIDS**.....**THIRTEEN TO SIXTEEN**.....

NOT WELL DRESSED... HANGING AROUND SMALL STORES AT CLOSING TIME.....

OKAY?

SOON AFTER THE PAPERS HIT THE STREETS, CHICK CARTER AND HIS PAL OF THE INNER CIRCLE SEE THE HEADLINE.....

FISH-FEATHERS AND BIRD FINS / **ANOTHER KID GANG ON THE LOOSE!**

I DON'T THINK IT'S **ANOTHER** GANG BIFF....LOOK, HERE AGAIN THEY SAY THERE WERE THREE YOUNGSTERS BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWELVE AND SIXTEEN.... THINK BACK.... IN EVERY ONE OF THE ROBBERIES THIS WEEK, EVEN THO THEY'RE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE CITY....

THAT LEAVES ONLY ONE MORE SECTION FOR THEM TO HIT, CHICK..... **PASSNER!** RIGHT!

THAT WOULD BE MY GUESS, BIFF.... THEY SHOULD **STRIKE** SOMEPLACE IN HERE TONIGHT....AND WE'RE GOING TO BE READY FOR THEM....CALL ALL **INNER CIRCLE MEMBERS** TO THE CLUB ROOM RIGHT AWAY!

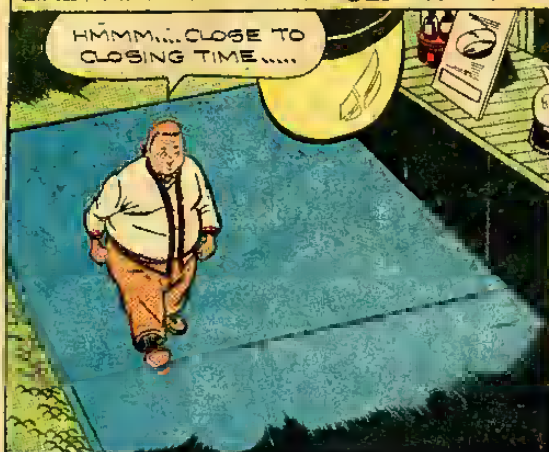
OKAY, CHICK, MEET YOU THERE IN FIVE MINUTES AS SOON AS I ROUND 'EM UP FROM THE GYM, THE PLAY-ROOM AND THE STUDY ROOM!

AND DON'T FORGET YOUR **DOG WHISTLES!**

OKAY CHICK!

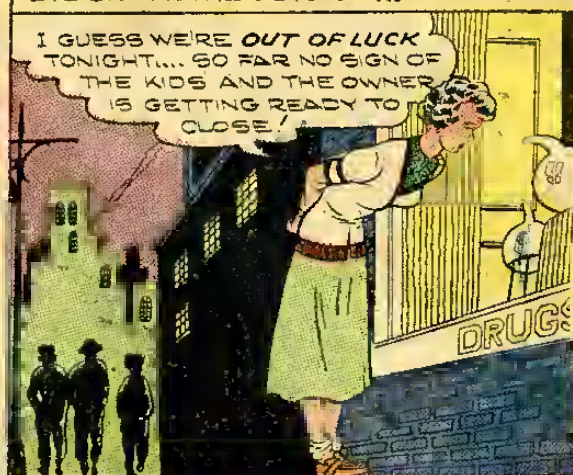
THAT NIGHT THE PATROL BEGINS.... BIFF KEEPS AN EYE ON A STORE THAT LOOKS LIKE A 'TARGET' FOR THE DELINQUENT....

HMMM... CLOSE TO CLOSING TIME.....



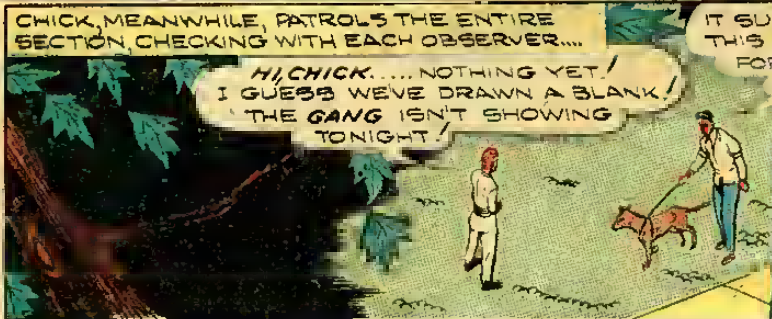
A FEW BLOCKS FROM BIFF, SUE KEEPS AN EYE ON ANOTHER STORE....

I GUESS WE'RE OUT OF LUCK TONIGHT... SO FAR NO SIGN OF THE KIDS AND THE OWNER IS GETTING READY TO CLOSE!

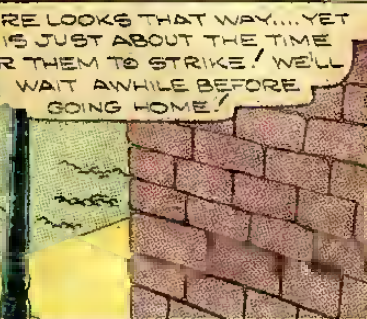


CHICK, MEANWHILE, PATROLS THE ENTIRE SECTION, CHECKING WITH EACH OBSERVER....

HI, CHICK.... NOTHING YET! I GUESS WE'VE DRAWN A BLANK! THE GANG ISN'T SHOWING TONIGHT!



IT SURE LOOKS THAT WAY.... YET THIS IS JUST ABOUT THE TIME FOR THEM TO STRIKE! WE'LL WAIT AWHILE BEFORE GOING HOME!



SUDDENLY, FLATFOOT, CHICKS TRAINED POLICE DOG PRICKS UP HIS EARS AND STRAINS HIS LEASH....

LOOK, CHICK.... FLATFOOT'S ON TO SOMETHING!

HE'S HEARD THE DOG-WHISTLE... OUR ALARM SIGNAL!

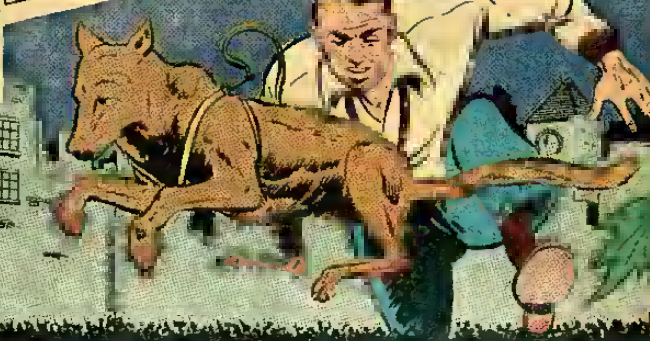


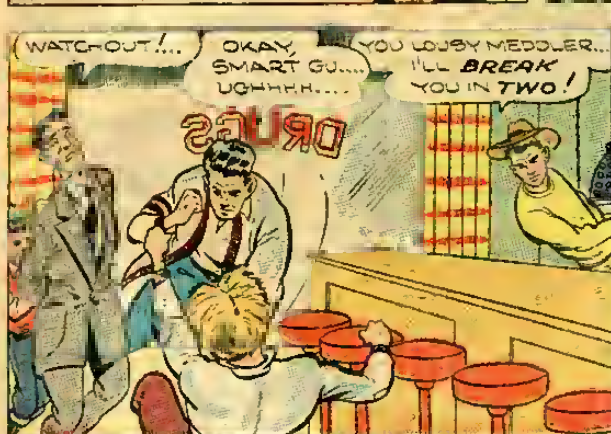
STAY HERE, HARRY! IT MIGHT BE A FALSE ALARM AND I DON'T WANT THIS POST LEFT OPEN!

BUT, CHICK!... AH... OKAY!



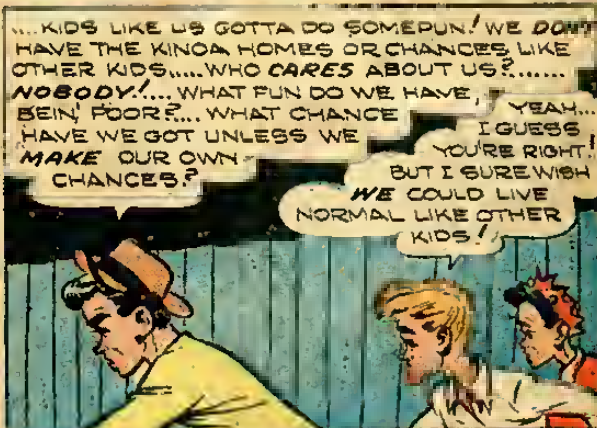
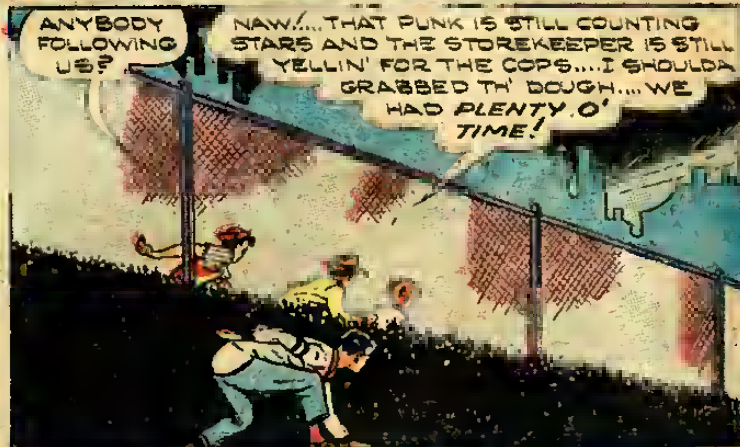
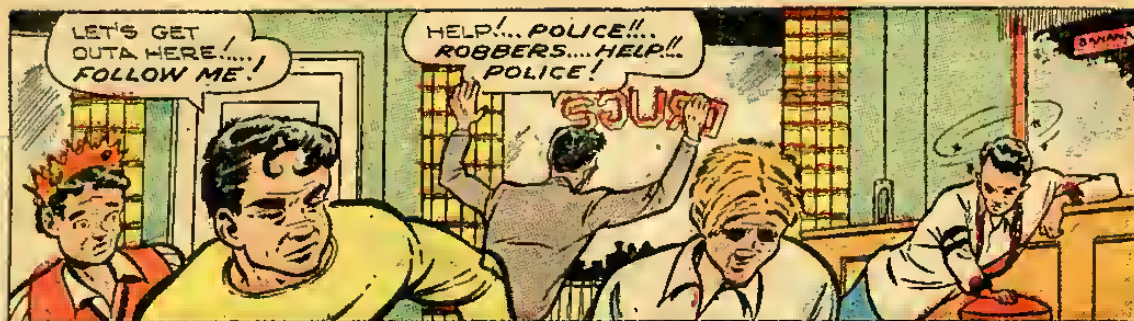
THE INSISTANT SOUND OF THE WHISTLE KEEPS FLATFOOT ON THE TRAIL.... IT'S SOUND, TOO HIGHLY PITCHED FOR THE HUMAN EAR, IS CLEARLY HEARD BY HIS SHARP EARS....





AN EXPERT AT JUDO, CHICK'S REFLEXES WORK PERFECTLY....THE INSTANT HE FEELS JIGS ON HIS BACK, TWO LIGHTNING MOVEMENTS SEND THE YOUNG CROOK INTO THE ARMS OF HIS PAL'S...





CHICK, WHO HAS HEARD THEIR CONVERSATION, FOLLOWS THEM WITH MORE DETERMINATION THAN EVER AND AT THE SAME TIME SUMMONS HELP WITH HIS DOG WHISTLE....

THOSE GUYS AREN'T BAD.... THEY NEED *HELP*... THE KIND THE *INNER CIRCLE* CAN GIVE 'EM....



AT THIS MOMENT, AS CHICK BLOWS HIS WHISTLE THAT CAN ONLY BE HEARD BY A DOG, SUE ARRIVES BACK AT THE STORE WITH BIFF WHOM SHE HAS BROUGHT TO HELP CHICK....

YES... YES... HE WAS HERE BUT HE FOLLOWED THE YOUNG CROOKS OUT THE BACK

WRRROOF!! WRRROOF!!

HEY! LOOK AT FLATFOOT!

HE'S HEARD THE DOG WHISTLE CHICK IS CALLING US!



BUT I TELL YOU THEY WENT *THIS* WAY... THROUGH THE STORE!

DON'T WORRY... FLATFOOT WILL LEAD US TO THEM....

GO ON, FLATFOOT... FIND CHICK!



MEANWHILE, CHICK FOLLOWS HIS QUARRY INTO THE POOREST SECTION OF TOWN, DOWN TO THE GARBAGE DUMP....

HMMM... SO *THIS* IS THEIR PLAYGROUND?... A GARBAGE DUMP!... NO WONDER THEY THINK AND ACT THE WAY THEY DO!



SUDDENLY, CHICK LOSES HIS FOOTING.... TRIPS ON A HALF CONCEALED SPRING....

WHOOOPS! OH..OH!



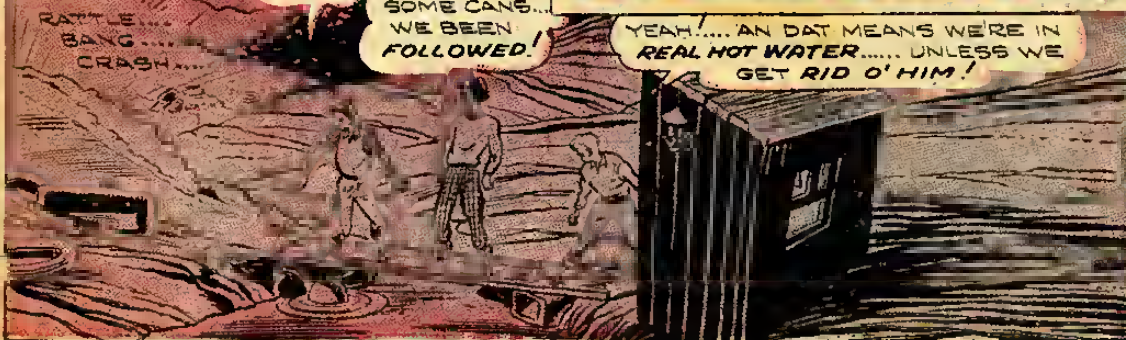
AND UP AHEAD....

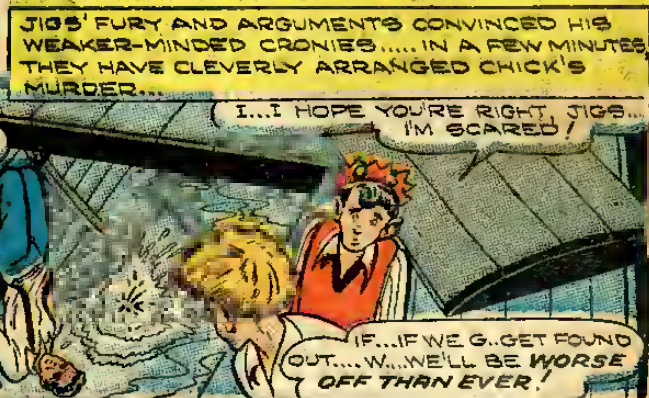
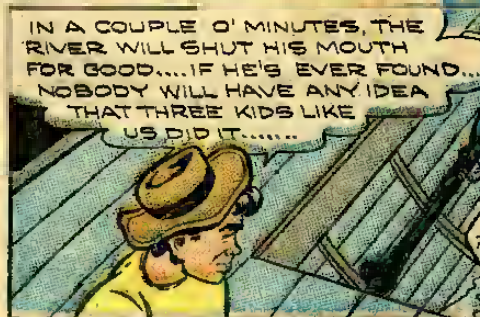
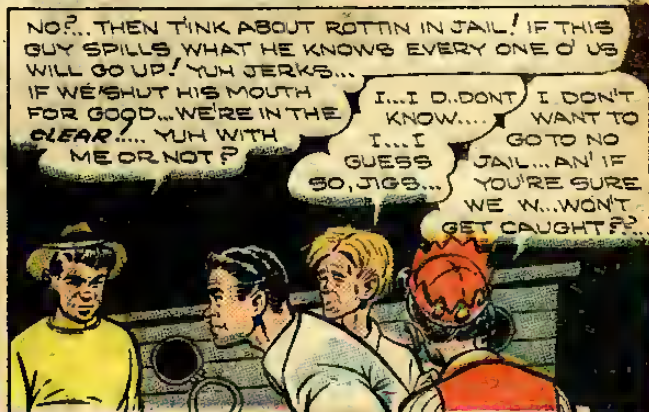
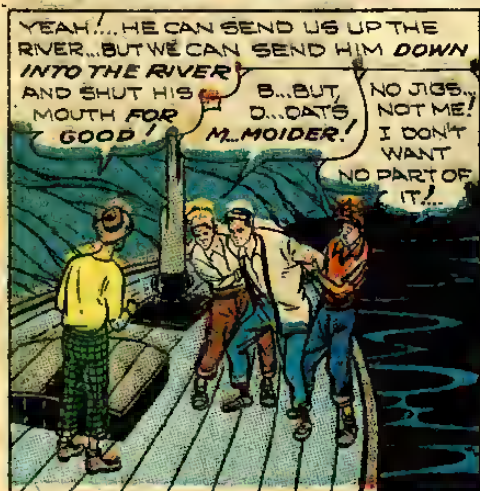
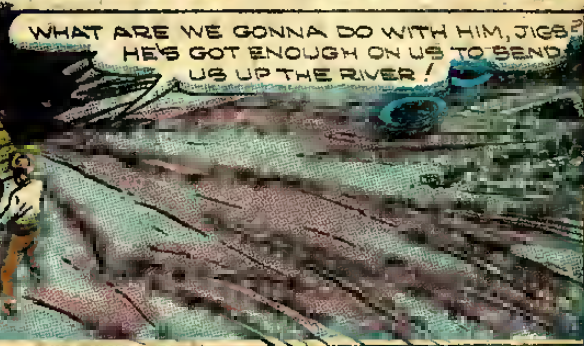
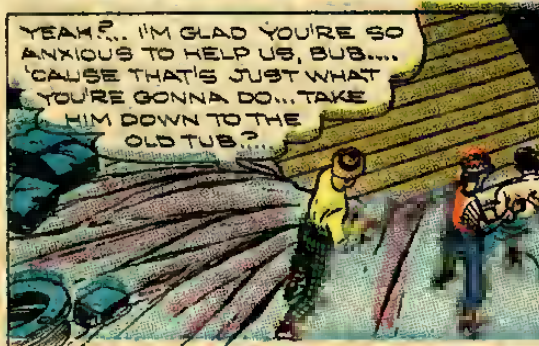
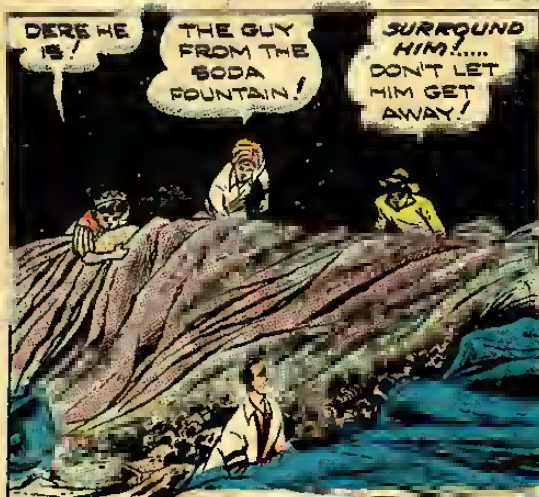
WHAT'S DAT?

SOMEBODY FELL INTO SOME CANS... WE BEEN FOLLOWED!

RATTLE... BANG... CRASH...

YEAH!... AN DAT MEANS WE'RE IN REAL HOT WATER..... UNLESS WE GET RID O' HIM!







THE DOG WHISTLE.... IF I CAN ONLY GET IT INTO MY MOUTH!



NOT FAR AWAY, BIFF AND SUE WATCH CHICK'S DOG, FLATFOOT ANXIOUSLY.....

CHICK'S STOPPED BLOWING THE WHISTLE.... SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO CHICK! GO ON FLATFOOT.... HURRY FIND HIM!



HE'S PICKED UP THE TRAIL!

BUT WITH ALL THE HORRIBLE SMELLS HERE, IT WILL TAKE HIM AGES TO TRACK CHICK DOWN.... MEANWHILE CHICK MAY BE IN DANGER!



WITH EVERY SECOND BRINGING THE WATER HIGHER, CHICK FINALLY SNAGS THE CORD AROUND HIS NECK AND FURIOUSLY STARTS PULLING THE WHISTLE TO HIS LIPS....



FLATFOOT FINDS THE HOLLOW WHERE CHICK WAS CAPTURED.... THEN SUDDENLY.....



YIP!

HE'S HEARD SOMETHING!

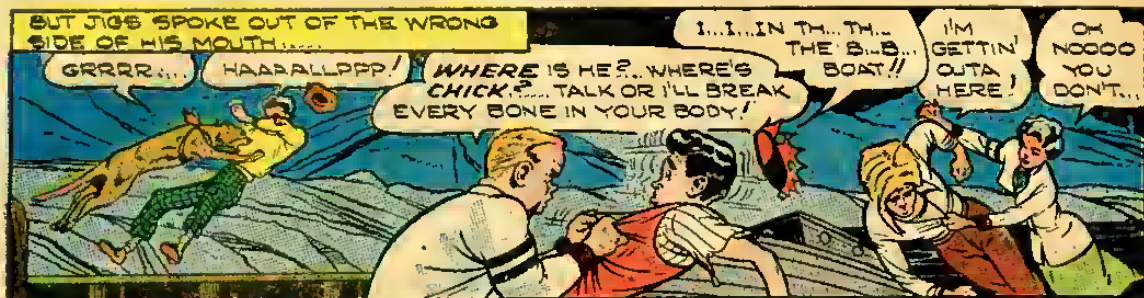
THE WHISTLE! CHICK'S WHISTLE....



LOOK WHAT'S COMIN'!

NOW WE'RE IN REAL TROUBLE!

SHUT UP!... WE'LL TAKE CARE O' DEM JUST LIKE THE OTHER!



BUT JIGS SPOKE OUT OF THE WRONG SIDE OF HIS MOUTH.....

GRRRRR...

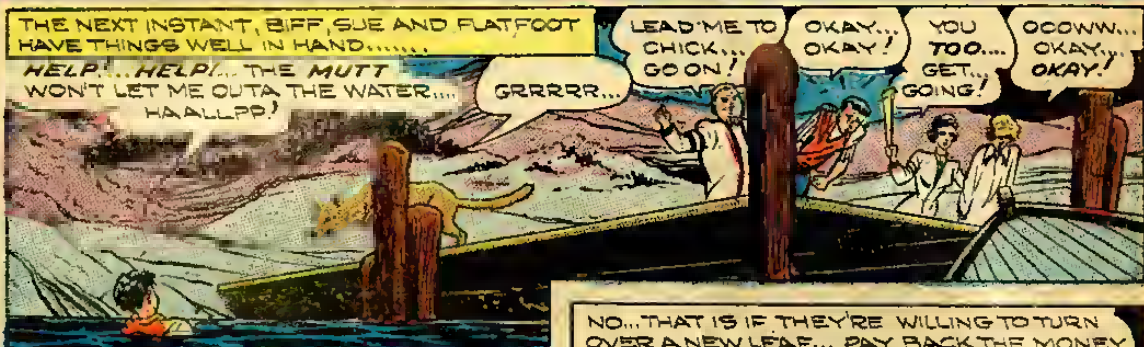
HAABALLPPP!

WHERE IS HE? WHERE'S CHICK? TALK OR I'LL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY!

I...I...IN TH...TH... THE B...B... BOAT!!

I'M GETTIN' OUTA HERE!

OH NOOOO YOU DON'T...



THE NEXT INSTANT, BIFF, SUE AND FLATFOOT HAVE THINGS WELL IN HAND.....

HELP!...HELP!... THE MUTT WON'T LET ME OUTA THE WATER.... HAALLPP!

GRRRRR...

LEAD ME TO CHICK... GOON!

OKAY... OKAY!

YOU TOO... GET... GOING!

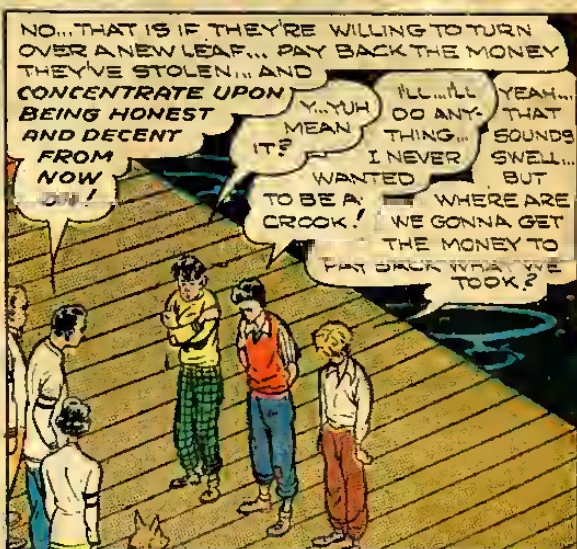
OOOWW... OKAY! OKAY!

CHICK IS RESCUED JUST IN TIME... A FEW MINUTES LATER ON THE DOCK FLATFOOT KEEPS A WATCHFUL GUARD OVER THOSE WHO TRIED TO KILL HIS FRIEND AND MASTER, CHICK CARTER.....

WOW! THAT WAS A NARROW ESCAPE! I THOUGHT FOR SURE I WAS A GONER! BRRR! SPOILED THESE THREE RATS' PLANS!

THANKS TO THE DOG WHISTLE AND FLAT-FOOT, WE SPOILED THESE THREE RATS' PLANS!

SO WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WITH THEM CHICK... TURN THEM INTO THE POLICE?

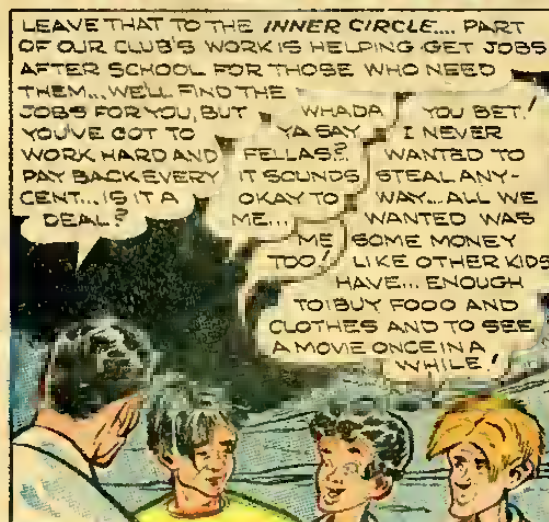


NO... THAT IS IF THEY'RE WILLING TO TURN OVER A NEW LEAF... PAY BACK THE MONEY THEY'VE STOLEN... AND CONCENTRATE UPON BEING HONEST AND DECENT FROM NOW ON!

Y...YUH MEAN IT?

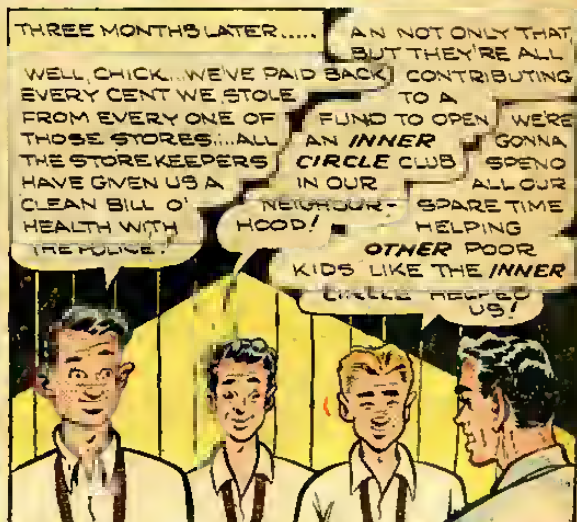
I'LL... I'LL DO ANY-THING... I NEVER WANTED TO BE A CROOK!

YEAH... THAT SOUNDS SWELL... BUT WHERE ARE WE GONNA GET THE MONEY TO PAY BACK WHAT WE TOOK?



LEAVE THAT TO THE INNER CIRCLE... PART OF OUR CLUB'S WORK IS HELPING GET JOBS AFTER SCHOOL FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM... WE'LL FIND THE JOBS FOR YOU, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO WORK HARD AND PAY BACK EVERY CENT... IS IT A DEAL?

WHADA YOU BET! YA SAY I NEVER FELLASE? WANTED TO STEAL ANY-THING... ALL WE WANTED WAS SOME MONEY LIKE OTHER KIDS HAVE... ENOUGH TO BUY FOOD AND CLOTHES AND TO SEE A MOVIE ONCE IN A WHILE!



THREE MONTHS LATER.....

WELL, CHICK... WE'VE PAID BACK EVERY CENT WE STOLE FROM EVERY ONE OF THOSE STORES... ALL THE STORE KEEPERS HAVE GIVEN US A CLEAN BILL O' HEALTH WITH THE POLICE!

AN NOT ONLY THAT BUT THEY'RE ALL CONTRIBUTING TO A FUND TO OPEN AN INNER CIRCLE CLUB IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD! HELPING OTHER POOR KIDS LIKE THE INNER CIRCLE HELPED US!

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NICK CARTER'S INNER CIRCLE

'VISION OF DEATH...'

Chick Carter called the monthly meeting of the Inner Circle to order and then turned the floor over to his noted foster father, Nick Carter, manhunter extraordinary. Nick got to his feet, cleared his throat and said, "I don't know whether you members have been following the case of the flying dagger in the papers or not. . . . He let his voice trail off. The nodding heads of the members showed that they had indeed been following the case with interest.

Nick said, "Good. Then you know the essentials. You know that a man was stabbed to death in his own home out in a real estate development where a series of identical houses are lined up with military precision one after the other as if they'd been dropped from a machine. Each house looks like its neighbor and is separated from its neighbor by perhaps fifty or sixty feet of space.

"In one of those suburban houses a man was killed. But that was only the beginning. If he had just been found stabbed the police would have gone through their ordinary procedure and perhaps have caught the murderer in good time.

"But as it happened there was an eye witness to the death of John Manderville. And that was what confused everyone. Murder is generally a secret thing. It is not often that the police are lucky enough to have a witness. Before this case was over, however, they wished that the witness hadn't been around.

"As it happened, Tim Morell, Manderville's next door neighbor was sitting next to his radio. The window near him faced the living room of the Manderville home. He was, according to his testimony, just sitting, listening

to Jack Benny when he saw a flicker of movement at the window across the way.

"At first it was just an irritation. It distracted him from the program he was listening to. Then suddenly, still according to Tim's testimony he saw a man; a tall, thin man with a gaunt, ascetic face who looked rather like John Carradine in the movies; the man was framed in the window. He looked out at the darkness with a strange stare. Tim watched him, fascinated by the man's odd face.

"It was at this point that Tim stopped listening to Mary Livingstone berating Jack Benny about his tightfistedness for . . . the tall, thin man took a dagger from his pocket and placed it on the window sill.

"Two things worried Tim. One was the secretive way the thin man slid the dagger from his pocket to the window sill, the other was the fact that the dagger was strangely menacing. It had a heavy hilt and a long, thin, curving blade. The hilt was intricately filigreed.

"The thin man walked away from the window. He paused in the middle of the living room and Tim saw him raise his hand in a threatening gesture. He was glad that the dagger was on the window sill and not in the man's hand.

"Next he saw Manderville get up from an easy chair and laugh in the face of the thin man. He, Tim, said the whole thing was nightmarish because of not being able to hear what the two men were saying. It was as if the sound track at the movies had broken down.

"Manderville turned his back to the thin man and went to his desk and pulled open the drawer. The thin man backed towards the window!

"There was a gun in Manderville's hand when it came up from the desk drawer. He pointed it at the thin man. Tim watched, frozen. The thin man's hands were behind him. He felt along the window sill for the dagger which he had placed there in readiness.

"Manderville gestured with the gun as though to say, 'Beat it,' the thin man's high narrow shoulders shrugged, and, with the speed of light, his hand, which had grasped the dagger by the point, whipped up and he threw the knife!

"Tim says he felt numb as he saw the dagger fly through the air. He watched in a daze as the dagger reached a home in the breast of Manderville. The gun slipped from Manderville's grasp slowly. As though bowing to an unseen audience, Manderville bent at the waist with grotesque courtesy and then . . . slowly, like a great tree falling, he fell to the floor.

"Once below the level of the window sill Tim could no longer see him. The thin man walked slowly across the floor. At this moment Tim was released from the paralysis that had gripped him and he grabbed his phone and almost screamed for the police.

"By the time the police reached the rather isolated real estate development all sign of the tall, thin man was gone. But Manderville was there . . . stretched on the floor, life gone."

Nick paused in his retelling of Tim Morell's story. Nick looked at the first row where Chick sat between Beef and Sue Pennington. Beef was wiggling in his seat. Nick asked, "What's bothering you, Beef?"

"That dagger! No knife thrower, not even the greatest can throw a dagger with a heavy hilt. A knife to be thrown has to be specially made. The blade has to be heavier than the hilt!"

"Good. Very astute of you, Beef," Nick said. "That is precisely what bothered the police and is the reason why the papers called this the case of the flying dagger. The police got a similar knife and had a vaudeville knife thrower experiment with it.

"This performer made his living by outlining his wife in knives. Nevertheless he could not throw this dagger in any way that approxi-

mated any degree of control."

Chick looked excited. He blurted, "But that isn't the important thing! That's not what proves who the killer was!"

"No?" Nick looked smilingly at his foster son. "What was the clue?"

"The filigree on the dagger!" Chick snorted.

Beef said, "The filigree? What in time has that got to do with it?"

Beef looked pleadingly at the other members of the Inner Circle as if to ask them if they saw any point in what Chick had said.

Nick waited a while to see if any of the other members had spotted the incongruity that Chick had put his finger on. Clearly no one else got it.

Nick said, "Of course as soon as I was called in I had the police arrest Tim Morell."

Nodding, Chick said, "Of course!"

Beef said, "What? You mean the guy who was just sitting listening to his radio was the killer? But what about the tall skinny guy?"

"He never existed except in Morell's too fertile imagination!" Nick said firmly. "Don't you see, by telling the story that he did, Morell put himself right smack in the electric chair!"

"I don't get it!" Beef said. "Filigree!"

Chick butted in and said, "Beef, use your noggin! Nick has told you that the two houses were at least fifty feet apart. How could Morell have seen the dagger, let alone have seen filigree on it? He could have told that the thing was dagger shaped, but not that it had a heavy handle with filigree on it! He'd have needed eyes like an eagle to have seen that!"

"Precisely," Nick said. "What really happened was that Morell and Manderville had been squabbling for a long time and this night Morell, like a fool, took the dagger along with him when he went to see Manderville. Manderville pulled a gun to threaten him and Morell stabbed him, killing him. Frightened by what he had done, he went back to his own house, called the police and then cooked up his fantastic vision of death to try and cover up his crime!"

"He caught himself!" Beef said musingly.

Nick ended the meeting by saying, "Exactly . . . just like many a criminal before him!"

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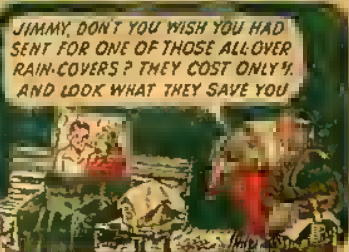
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The electric motor which powers this clever time piece is the quiet kind which requires no winding. There is no hum to disturb your sleep. Just plug it into your electric socket and watch the multi-colored spinning disc whirl away the passing of time.

You'll Love Every Feature Of This New Clock



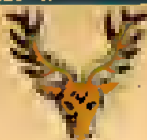
**Colorful
Whirling
Disc
Revolves
Continuously**



**Realistic-looking
Beautifully Colored
Pot of Flowers
Adorns Each Side
of Chalet**



**Native Bird
• Adds a
Quaint
Decorative
Touch**



**Ornamental
Deer's Head
Is Mounted
Over Clock Dial**

AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING ELECTRIC CLOCK VALUE!

Watch the **Rainbow Colored Whirling Disc**
Spin Round and Round as Time Marches On!

Think of the fun and satisfaction that can now be yours with this **Swiss Chalet Electric Whirling Clock**. This new ornamental clock with its colorful and intricate Swiss design, its beautiful molded plastic case and its precision electric movement, will add charm and beauty to any room. Your family and friends will be positively delighted with the striking colors of the painted Alpine scene which adorns the clear-view, easily read dial of the clock. Made to represent a world renowned Swiss Chalet this lovely clock is unquestionably the most beautiful, the most original and the most useful electric clock ever to be offered for the sensational low price of \$3.69 or two for \$6.95. All the quaint styling of famed Swiss Craftsmen is faithfully reproduced in this beautiful chalet replica, from the rustic colored shingles on the roof and the artistic chimney to the latticed windows and mounted deer's head. Even the native bird and the quaint peasant clothes of the boy and girl are all accurately reproduced. This **Swiss Chalet Precision Electric Whirling Clock** is made so it can either hang on wall or stand on table. Measures full 6 1/4 inches high. It's unconditionally guaranteed to satisfy and to perform faithfully and accurately.

Don't be disappointed! Don't pass up this buy of a lifetime and be sorry afterwards. Rush your order for one or more Swiss Chalet Electric Clocks today while the supply is still available. First come, first served. Just mail your order on the handy coupon below.

SEND NO MONEY—RUSH THIS COUPON

ILLINOIS MERCHANDISE MART, DEPT. 4733-A,
1227 Loyola Ave., Chicago 26, Illinois

- ☐ Rush me the new Swiss Chalet Electric Whirling Clock. I will pay the balance only \$3.69 plus 20% Federal Tax and C.O.D. postage charges on arrival with the understanding that I must be delighted in every way or I can return the clock within 10 days for a refund.
- ☐ Send me 2 Swiss Chalet Electric Clocks for the special price of only \$6.95 plus 20% Federal Tax and C.O.D. postage charges.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

- ☐ Enclosed is full payment in advance in cash or by check. Rush Clocks @ \$3.69 each plus 20% Federal Tax (\$4.43) on two clocks \$7.38. Federal tax \$12.34.